

TOWN OF HARWICH 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS



Front cover photo: “Herring River South of Lower County Bridge”

Photo courtesy of: Stephen Farrell

Back cover photo: “Hall’s Depot Bog in North Harwich”

Photo courtesy of: Alan Hall

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE
OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF**

HARWICH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025



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IN MEMORIAM

2025

John Rosetti
Conservation Commission

Jeffrey Kent Nilson
Harwich Middle School and Harwich School Committee

Dr. Matthew Cushing
Board of Health

Maria Rita Rudden
Election Worker

Eleanor Bassett
Harwich Channel 18 and Brooks Free Library Employee

Mary Belle Small
Harwich Early Childhood Council, Harwich Port Library Volunteer
and Harwich Ecumenical Council for Housing

Patricia Smith
Harwich/Monomoy Elementary Teacher

Sally Cambell
Harwich Town Band

Miriam Reis
Council on Aging, Harwich Disability Community Gardens and
Harwich SALT Council

Richard E. Gomes
Harwich School Committee

Jane Reynolds Chase
Harwich Elementary School Teacher

Izzy Thompson
Harwich Hall of Fame Inductee

George Forester
Treasure Chest Committee

Angelo LaMantia
Finance Committee, Select Board, Planning Board,
Capital Outlay Committee, Wastewater Subcommittee,
Operations Review Task Force

Charlie Horan
Harwich High School Coach

Anne M. O'Brien
Brooks Free Library Trustee

*We remember those who have passed away and are grateful
for their years of faithful service given to the Town of Harwich*

GIFTS TO THE TOWN 2025

Jan Kalicki

Friends of Harwich Council on Aging

Timothy Ritchie

Guild of Harwich Artists

Shaw's / Star Market Supermarket

Christopher Senie / Bridge Camp

Whole Foods – Hyannis

Harwich Conservation Trust

Harwich Cranberry Festival

Wychmere Harbor Club

Harwich Pickleball Association

Family of Vahan Khahadoorian

***With gratitude for your thoughtfulness and generosity
on behalf of the residents of the Town of Harwich.***

ADMINISTRATION

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS 2025

SELECT BOARD

Donald F. Howell, Chair	Term expires May 2026
Jeffrey F. Handler	Term expires May 2026
Peter J. Piekarski, Vice Chair	Term expires May 2027
Mark P. Kelleher, Clerk	Term expires May 2028
Anita N. Doucette	Term expires May 2028

Recognition to: Julie E. Kavanagh and Michael D. MacAskill

MODERATOR

Michael D. Ford, Esq.	Term expires May 2027
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TOWN CLERK

Emily Mitchell	Term expires May 2028
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MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meredith Henderson, Chair	Term expires May 2026
Ryan Edwards	Term expires May 2028
Ryan Clarke	Term expires May 2026
Vacant	Term expires May 2027
Bradford Schiff, Vice Chair	Term expires May 2027
Betty Gray	Term expires May 2026
Stephen Davol	Term expires May 2026
Jackie Zibrat-Long	Term expires May 2026

Recognition to: Tina Games, Jessica Rogers and Bre Rose

BOARD OF WATER/WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS

Noreen Donahue, Chair	Term expires May 2027
Judith Underwood	Term expires May 2028
Allin P. Thompson, Clerk	Term expires May 2026
Robert Young, Vice Chair	Term expires May 2027
John B. Gough, Jr.	Term expires May 2026

BROOKS FREE LIBRARY – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bernadette Waystack, Chair	Term expires May 2028
Patricia Murray, Vice Chair	Term expires May 2027
Linda Cebula, Clerk	Term expires May 2026
William D. Crowell, Treasurer	Term expires May 2028
Jeannie S. Wheeler	Term expires May 2027
Jo-Anne Brown	Term expires May 2026
Joan McCarty	Term expires May 2027

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES – ELECTED

Elizabeth Harder	Term expires May 2026
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CHARTER COMMISSION

Linda Cebula, Chair	
Sandra Hall, Vice Chair	Richard Waystack
Herbert Bell	Louis Urbano
Brendan Lowney	Judith Underwood
Jon Chorey, Treasurer	Paul Doane

Recognition to: Antigone London

HOUSING AUTHORITY

State Appointee: Marcy Vigneau	Term expires May 2027
Elizabeth Harder, Chair	Term expires May 2030
Kimberly Bourgea	Term expires May 2026
Arthur Bodin	Term expires May 2027
Executive Director: Tracy Cannon	

APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Robert J. Furtado	Term expires May 2028
John Our	Term expires May 2026

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Robert MacCready, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Scott Norum, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Dana Decosta, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2026
Peter Hughes	Term expires June 30, 2027
Mark Ameres	Term expires June 30, 2026
Michele Gallucci	Term expires June 30, 2028
Daniel Tworek	Term expires June 30, 2027
Tina Games	Term expires June 30, 2028
Mark Peterson	Term expires June 30, 2026

Recognition to: Angelo LaMantia and Mark Kelleher

CALEB CHASE FUND, TRUSTEES

Paul V. Doane, Esq., Chair	Term expires May 2026
Robert Doane, Treasurer	Term expires May 2028
James Stinson, Esq.	Term expires May 2027

APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

BARNSTABLE COUNTY COASTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amy Usowski, Conservation Director (Regular Member / Representative)	Term Indefinite
Stephanie Sykes, Natural Resources (Alternate Member / Representative)	Term Indefinite

BARNSTABLE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT - RABIES TASK FORCE

Carrie Schoener, Health Director – Alternate Representative

BARNSTABLE COUNTY “HOME” CONSORTIUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Brianna Powell, Housing Advocate	Term Indefinite
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BARNSTABLE COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lincoln S. Hooper, DPW Director	Term Indefinite
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CAPE COD COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Jacqueline Etsten	Term expires April 24, 2026
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**CAPE COD JOINT TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

Lincoln Hooper, DPW Director	Term Indefinite
Tony Schiavi, Acting Town Administrator	Term Indefinite
Alternate Representative	

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR

Robbin Kelley

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Kevin Considine

FINANCE DIRECTOR/TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Jennifer Mince / Ed Spellman (Interim) / Eric Kinsherb (Interim)

FIRE CHIEF

Chief David LeBlanc

FOREST WARDEN

David LeBlanc, Fire Chief	Term Indefinite
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**HARBORMASTER/NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER/
WHARFINGER/SHELLFISH CONSTABLE**

John Harker, Harbormaster	Term Indefinite
Stephanie Sykes, Natural Resources Director	Term Indefinite

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COORDINATOR

David LeBlanc, Fire Chief	Term Indefinite
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HEALTH OFFICER

Carrie Schoener, R.S., C.H.O.	Term Indefinite
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MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR FOR TOXIC WASTE

David LeBlanc, Fire Chief	Term Indefinite
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OIL SPILL COORDINATOR

David LeBlanc, Fire Chief	Term Indefinite
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**RIGHT-TO-KNOW COORDINATOR FOR
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

David LeBlanc, Fire Chief

Term Indefinite

TOWN COUNSEL

KP Law, P.C.

Term Indefinite

TOWN COUNSEL – SPECIAL REAL ESTATE MATTERS

James E. Coppola, Esq.

Term Indefinite

LABOR COUNSEL

KP Law, P.C.

Term Indefinite

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Larry Ballantine, Chair

Term expires June 20, 2026

Claudia Williams

Term expires June 30, 2027

Robert Spencer

Term expires June 30, 2027

Brendan Lowney

Term expires June 30, 2026

Jeffrey Handler / Select Board Member

Term expires June 30, 2027

Anthony Schiavi

Ex-Officio

Recognition to: Julie E. Kavanagh

BIKEWAYS COMMITTEE

Francis Salewski, Chair

Term expires June 30, 2028

J. Alain Ferry, Vice Chair

Term expires June 30, 2026

Pauline Teas

Term expires June 30, 2027

Paul Gazaille

Term expires June 30, 2026

Frederick Rice

Term expires June 30, 2028

James Ferry

Term expires June 30, 2026

Vacant

Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Charles Walkey

BOARD OF APPEALS

G. Brian Sullivan, Chair

Term expires June 30, 2028

Kenneth Dickson, Vice Chair

Term expires June 30, 2028

Alexander Donaghue, Clerk

Term expires June 30, 2026

John August

Term expires June 30, 2027

Christopher Murphy

Term expires June 30, 2026

Marilyn Raatz, Alternate

Term expires June 30, 2027

Vacant, Alternate

Term expires June 30, 2027

Vacant, Alternate

Term expires June 30, 2027

Vacant, Alternate

Term expires June 30, 2026

Vacant, Alternate

Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Timothy Bailey and David Nunnally

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Richard Waystack, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Jay Kavanaugh	Term expires June 30, 2028
Bruce Nightingale	Term expires June 30, 2026

BOARD OF HEALTH

Sharon Pflieger, M.S.	Term expires June 30, 2028
Pamela Howell, R.N., Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2027
Ronald Dowgaillo, D.M.D., Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Janet Siviski, R.N.	Term expires June 30, 2026
Kevin DuPont, R.N., Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Shirley Knowles	Term expires June 30, 2027
Mary Ann Pina	Term expires June 30, 2028
Deborah A. Sementa	Term expires June 30, 2026
Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2028

BROOKS ACADEMY MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Robert Nickerson, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Patsy Ford, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Lynn Ellen Zalesak, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2026
Janet Cassidy	Term expires June 30, 2027

BY-LAW / CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Linda Cebula, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Sandra Hall, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Deborah Sementa, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2026
Recognition to: Anita Doucette	

CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE

Martha Donovan, Chair (Select Board)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Ann Clark Tucker, Vice Chair (Planning Board)	Term expires June 30, 2028
Scott Norum, Clerk (Finance Committee)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Michele Gallucci, (Finance Committee)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Richard Larios (Town Administrator)	Term expires June 30, 2027
Paul Doane (Town Administrator)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant (Select Board)	Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Frank Wiacek

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Steven Conner, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Cynthia Eldredge	Term expires June 30, 2027
Robert B. Thompson	Term expires June 30, 2028

COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Angelina Chilaka, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Heath Eldredge, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Christina Joyce, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2026
Phyllis Thomason (Rec & Youth Commission)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant (Council on Aging)	Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Ralph Smith and Vahan Khachadoorian

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Dave Nixon, Chair (Rec & Youth Commission)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Emily Brutti (Planning)	Term expires June 30, 2027
Kathy Green, Vice Chair (Real Estate & Open Space)	Term expires June 30, 2027
John Ketchum (Conservation)	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant (Historic District Historical Commission)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Arthur Bodin (Housing Committee)	Term expires June 30, 2027
Mary Maslowski (Select Board)	Term expires June 30, 2027
Marcy Vigneau (Housing Authority)	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant (Select Board)	Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Robert Doane and Kelly Barber

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John Ketchum, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Mark Coleman, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Wayne Coulson	Term expires June 30, 2026
Sophia Pilling	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vivienne Mulhall-Maguire	Term expires June 30, 2027
Susan Cyr	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant - Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant- Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027

CONSTABLES

Leo Cakounes	Term expires June 30, 2026
David Robinson	Term expires June 30, 2028
Gerald Beltis	Term expires June 30, 2027

COUNCIL ON AGING

Richard Waystack, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Carol Thayer, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Linda Roderick	Term expires June 30, 2026
Sheila House	Term expires June 30, 2028
Angelina Chilaka	Term expires June 30, 2028
Jen Andersen	Term expires June 30, 2028
John Bathelt, Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Ralph Smith & Justin White

GOLF COMMITTEE

W. Paul White, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
John Adams, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2027
Eric Clark	Term expires June 30, 2027
John McCaffrey	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026
Russell Couturier	Term expires June 30, 2028
Karen Doucette	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Mark Martello and Frank Wiacek

HARWICH ACCESSIBILITY RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Alexa Paige	Term expires June 30, 2028
Lynn Budell	Term expires June 30, 2026
Pamela Oldenburg	Term expires June 30, 2026
Julia Quinn	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2028

HARWICH CULTURAL COUNCIL

Erica Strzepek, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Nina Schuessler	Term expires June 30, 2026
Tamara Harper	Term expires June 30, 2028
Christine Banks	Term expires June 30, 2026
Victoria Brown	Term expires June 30, 2027
Sharon Moore	Term expires June 30, 2026
Ann Pitzen	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Pam North, Jaqueline Leach, Bernadette Waystack,
Dinah Lane and Darlene Mahoney

HARWICH ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

Valerie Bell, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Charles Czech	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026
Glenn Miemieci	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant – Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition To: Jaqueline Pentz Greene

HARWICH HOUSING COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Harder, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Matt Hemeon	Term expires June 30, 2026
Arthur Bodin	Term expires June 30, 2027
Ellen Collins	Term expires June 30, 2026
Anthony Dimauro	Term expires June 30, 2027

HISTORIC DISTRICT & HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mary Maslowski, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Lynne Ellen Zalesak	Term expires June 30, 2026
Brendan Lowney	Term expires June 30, 2028
Robert Doane	Term expires June 30, 2026
Paul Doane	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant - Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Paul Mann

LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Garrett Curran	Joyce McIntyre, Chair
Margo Fenn	Barbara Nickerson, Secretary
Bernadette Waystack	Brian Scheld
James Knickman	David Spitz
Ed McManus	
Mary Jones	

Recognition to: Peter Gori

PLANNING BOARD

James Duncan Berry, Ph.D., Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Ann Clark Tucker	Term expires June 30, 2028
Mary Maslowski	Term expires June 30, 2027
Ann Newman	Term expires June 30, 2028
Harry Munns	Term expires June 30, 2027
Allan Peterson	Term expires June 30, 2026
Emily Brutti	Term expires June 30, 2028

PLEASANT BAY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Indefinite Terms

Vacant	Dorothy Howell, Member
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Recognition to: Allin Thompson

**PLEASANT BAY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE
TECHNICAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

Indefinite Terms

John Harker, Harbormaster
Jason Trepanier, Water/Wastewater Superintendent
Amy Usowski, Conservation Director
Stephanie Sykes, Natural Resources Director
Carole Ridley, Coordinator

REAL ESTATE & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Dave Callaghan, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Katherine Green, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Carol Porter, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2027
Elaine Shovlin	Term expires June 30, 2028
Marcia Thorngate Smith	Term expires June 30, 2027
Margo L. Fenn	Term expires June 30, 2028
Brad Hinote	Term expires June 30, 2026

RECREATION & YOUTH COMMISSION

Leah Mercurio, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Brian Wentworth, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Phyllis Thomason, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vahan Khachadoorian	Term expires June 30, 2028
David Nixon	Term expires June 30, 2026
Brian Wentworth	Term expires June 30, 2027
Arthur Donowski	Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Francis Crowley

SHELLFISH CONSTABLES (VOLUNTARY)

1 year terms

Greg Garber	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Jack Mawn	Sandra Hall
Karen Doucette	Norm Clarke
Duncan Berry	

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Linda Cebula, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Gerald Beltis, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Karen Marotta, Clerk	Term expires June 30, 2027
Lincoln Hooper, Director of Public Works	Term expires June 30, 2026
Lt. Aram Goshgarian, Police Dept. Designee	Term Expires June 30, 2028

TREASURE CHEST COMMITTEE

Jean Bulger	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Cindy Beaulieu	Term expires June 30, 2028
Mary Moody	Term expires June 30, 2028
Maureen Davis	Term expires June 30, 2026
Deborah Gibson	Term expires June 30, 2027
Heather Bolinder	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant, Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant, Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027

Recognition to: Eleanor Gerson, Eileen Garrity and George Forester

VOTER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Joy Jordan	Term expires June 30, 2026
Tricia Murray, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2028
Emily Milan	Term expires June 30, 2027
Pauline Teas	Term expires June 30, 2028

Recognition to: Amy Jalbert

WATERWAYS COMMITTEE

Daniel Hall, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Roger Peterson, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Larry Brutti	Term expires June 30, 2027
Daniel Casey	Term expires June 30, 2028
Kent Drushella	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027
Richard Shevory, Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant, Alternate	Term expires June 30, 2026

Recognition to: James Walpole

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ashley Symington, Youth & Family Counselor

Rebecca Craig	Term expires June 30, 2026
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2028
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2027
Vacant	Term expires June 30, 2026

Recognition to: Joy Jordan

Report of the **Harwich Select Board**

The Harwich Select Board is your executive branch, elected by you to represent your interests in between Town Meetings. It is our honor to hold your trust. Likewise, we are grateful for your continued dedication as informed and engaged citizens. Our government simply would not function without the continued good will and dedication of those who serve on Harwich's volunteer boards. And in a larger sense, an educated and informed citizenry is essential to the functioning of a Town Meeting form of government.

This year marked an unusual amount of change throughout the government. In the early part of the year, Julie Kavanaugh resigned her position as chair of the Board with six months remaining and was replaced by Jeffrey Handler. He was later replaced by Don Howell, who was elected in June to that post. Likewise, Ms. Kavanaugh and Michael MacAskill chose not to seek re-election and were replaced at the ballot box by Anita Doucette (our former long-time Town Clerk) and Mark Kelleher (a member of the Town Finance Committee).

But change was not limited to our elected officials. We operated with a contractor performing the duties of Finance Director until November. After an exhaustive search, the Board was pleased to appoint a permanent Finance Director, Jennifer Mince, who comes to the position with a deep knowledge of finance, an inquisitive mind and an energy not seen in that post for many years.

The theme of change was evidenced in the Administration office also. Joseph Powers left his post in June after holding that position for five years. Meggan Eldredge (the Assistant Town Administrator) held the Interim Acting Administrator post for a short time until Anthony Schiavi was appointed by the majority of the Board as Acting Town Administrator, having most recently held that position in Bourne. He entered the post with a high commitment to changing the culture at Town Hall to one valuing service, pride and teamwork. Evidence of his work can be seen elsewhere in this report. Ms. Eldredge, for her part, departed Harwich by summer after accepting a post with the Town of Yarmouth.

In July, the firm of Groux and White was awarded a contract to perform a search for a permanent Town Administrator and a screening committee of five citizens was selected by the Board. Their task was to review the thirty-four candidates in order to recommend three finalists for consideration. We thank them for their fine work.

After much discussion in the past year, a petition with sufficient signatures was presented to the Town Clerk and a Charter Commission was approved at the ballot box with nine individuals elected to fill the role of Commissioners. Their mission is to reexamine all facets of our current charter, which though amended periodically, is nearly forty years old. Their meetings are all public and they welcome your input.

Select Board Major Actions

There were a number of overarching themes in the work of the Board throughout the year. First among those was the need to address all eight labor union contracts, each expiring on June 30. Negotiations commenced in January, but by mid-year had languished with no settlements in sight. Drawing on his vast experience as an Administrator (and, indeed, as a math major in college), Mr. Schiavi was able to find areas of agreement and funding sources that enabled the Town to settle the contracts within months of his arrival. It should be noted that that Ms. Eldredge was a great help in this endeavor both before and after her departure.

Sewering of the Town continued to be a problem needing close attention. When the State, through its Department of Environmental Protection, imposed the requirement to move away from Title V septic systems (due to a lawsuit settled by consent with the U.S. EPA), the timeline was approximately forty years at an estimated cost of \$300,000,000. The State more recently cut the mandated timeline about in half and the inflation of the past five years has boosted the estimated cost to about a half a billion dollars. Harwich is further along than many of its Cape neighbors and is closely monitoring the progress of the phase three project. Also, this past year voters approved the so-called phase 3A sewer project to clean up around the Great Sand Lakes area of Town. The decision was heavily informed by the prospect that State 0% financing and principal buy-downs might not be available to us in the near future.

There were many discussions and public forums throughout the past year involving the Town's new Comprehensive Plan. The Local Planning Committee spent many meetings refining the plan and attempting to address balancing preserving open space and housing needs. The latter issue was particularly difficult as it involved issues that deeply divide us as a community. Who is this housing aimed to help, how many units are needed and how large do they need to be? Should they be heavily concentrated in certain areas or integrated into neighborhoods? And can our roadways and other infrastructure, already burdened by past growth, handle the increase? We appreciate the dedication shown by the Planning Committee throughout its three years of work.

Discussions have continued with the Chatham Select Board, the Monomoy School Committee and the Harwich Select Board over the capacity of Harwich to maintain its financial commitment to the district while at the same time providing the best education possible for our children.

The complex three-way deal between the Town, the Davenport Companies and the West Harwich Baptist Church finally was decoupled this past year. The project's intent had been to preserve the historic exterior of the building while providing needed workforce housing with the renovation of the interior. The Town's role had been to perfect the lot lines of the property through eminent domain. Acrimony ensued when it appeared that the building would be razed rather than preserved. We await new possibilities for this treasure.

Other Select Board Highlights

January saw the appointment of wastewater management consultant and the approval of a culvert and fish passage improvement for river herring migration at the Route 124 culvert.

In March we saw the beginning of discussions relative to accepting a newly created Seasonal Communities designation from the State. The biggest concern remains what the Town would need to give up in order to achieve unknown benefits in return. Our roadways engineering contractor, VHB, discussed a Harwich Port traffic study having previously analyzed North Harwich traffic. Neither report presented substantive solutions for deficiencies. Also, a broad-brush discussion of the use of revolving funds occurred. Mr. Howell continued to object to their increased usage without stricter oversight.

In April, there was discussion over whether to accept a State designation to become a "Climate Leader." Once again, the Board questioned what the Town would need to give up in order to achieve unknown benefits.

In June, the Board held a discussion with the Pennrose Corporation over the proposed development of the former Marceline pasture property. The Board also approved a contract for a new Fire Department pumper truck.

In July, the Board began discussing a request for proposals covering the Town's need for legal services, which had not been reviewed in years despite a Charter provision requiring the Board to appoint counsel each year.

August saw the resurrection of an annual meeting to discuss the concerns of our non-resident taxpayers. As well, the Board discussed a partnership with the Harwich Conservation Trust and the Town of Brewster to support nitrogen reduction in the Herring River Watershed.

In September the Board received a needs assessment by UMass for our Council on Aging. The Board also approved a contract for an irrigation upgrade at Cranberry Valley Golf Course and received a briefing on the welcome improvement of the intersection at Chatham Road and Route 39; the so-called “hope and go” intersection. The Board also went to a second reading of its budget message to the Town Administrator. Notably, it urged the budget process to “look within” and resolve our current challenges before adopting any new obligations.

Rounding out the latter portion of the year, the Board began examining various fee structures, many of which had not been reviewed in years. State Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Hadley Luddy appeared in front of the Board to give a legislative update. Finally, a joint meeting between the Select Board, the Finance Committee and the Capital Outlay Committee was held in an effort to usher in a renewed sense of collaboration.

In closing, the Select Board extends their gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers and all board and committee members for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Your efforts, expertise and countless hours of service make a meaningful difference in our community and we truly appreciate everything that you do to keep Harwich thriving.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Harwich Select Board

Don Howell, Chair
Peter Piekarski, Vice Chair
Mark Kelleher, Clerk
Jeffrey Handler, Member
Anita Doucette, Member

Report of the **Town Administrator**

I was honored to begin serving as Acting Town Administrator on August 11, 2025. In the short span of five and a half months, the entire team worked diligently to address a number of time-sensitive priorities and deliver meaningful progress for the Town of Harwich.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the retooling of the Town's Capital Plan, covering Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031. This effort focused on improving transparency and ensuring that the information presented to Town Meeting in May 2026 is clear and comprehensive. Working collaboratively with staff and the Capital Outlay Committee, we were able to provide the Select Board with a much-refined product well ahead of previous timelines.

We also introduced a comprehensive Town Meeting and budget development timeline, incorporating key milestones that allowed the initial draft budget to be presented more than a month earlier than in prior years. This proactive approach allows the Select Board and Finance Committee ample time to review, thereby providing a smoother path for Town Meeting.

In November 2025, for the first time, we presented an in-depth review of the prior fiscal year's financial performance, in partnership with our Interim Finance Director, Jennifer Mince. This added level of detail strengthens fiscal accountability and transparency.

Collective bargaining was another major focus. All eight of the Town's agreements had expired on June 30, 2025. By year's end, seven of eight agreements were successfully negotiated and signed, reflecting the commitment of all parties to fair and timely resolutions.

We also filled key leadership positions that had been vacant for an extended period, including the Building Commissioner and Finance Director, ensuring stability and continuity in critical departments.

In the fall, the Town executed a major borrowing of funds approved at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting, with several measures also requiring success at the ballot box during the annual election. Throughout this process, Harwich maintained its AAA Bond Rating, enabling us to secure a highly competitive interest rate that will save taxpayers money over the life of the borrowing.

Additionally, we submitted our Free Cash for certification within the state's "gold standard" timeframe, following the close of the fiscal year.

Certification was received in December, allowing us to prepare the FY27 Capital Budget and funding plan early and allocate additional Free Cash to support important Town Meeting articles. This “planning ahead” approach helps avoid the last-minute challenges that can arise during Town Meeting preparation.

These achievements reflect the dedication and professionalism of the entire Town staff, boards, and committees. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a committed team, and I look forward to continuing this momentum into 2026. I also want to personally recognize Natasha Lyon and Jenn Clarke, who are a key part of our team in the corner office. We said goodbye to Meggan Eldredge in September, and both Jenn and Natasha kept our office running on all cylinders, despite being short staffed and help to keep the “new guy” focused and on track. I am indebted to them both for their work ethic, attention to detail and willingness to take on any task when they saw a need arise.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to work for our wonderful town - its employees, citizens, boards and committees and of course our Select Board, over the past six months. I enjoyed the daily challenges, networking and problem solving shared by working as a team. I look forward to watching and reading about all the amazing work that will be accomplished as we move forward at “one team” / “one town”.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Schiavi
Acting Town Administrator

Report of the **Town Clerk's Office**

The 2025 calendar year was a year of new projects, transition, rebuilding, and preparation for future progress.

Notable Projects

This year was lighter on election activity with only the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election, both taking place in May. We had the assistance of 37 different election workers and the three other members of the Board of Registrars to manage these events successfully. These folks are integral to the smooth functioning of the democratic process at the local level, and I am grateful for their passion, expertise, and dedication. The outcomes of these two events are recorded on the following pages.

Our office capitalized on the lighter election year to delve into other projects. We kicked off a multi-year record digitization project in partnership with the Information Technology (IT) Department, sending off approximately 75,000 records to be scanned, data-tagged, and formatted for easy public access. The records left our storage in early August and are set to be returned to us, both physically and digitally, in early March 2026.

In the coming months, we plan to contract for the next phases of this project, with a focus on the Town's historical records and records from our regulatory boards and departments. The goals of this effort are to improve staff and interdepartmental efficiency and to make records easier for the public to access. While much of this work has taken place behind the scenes, we are excited for the community to begin seeing the benefits.

Also, in partnership with the IT Department, and with support of the Select Board, we have launched an effort to provide all members of Town boards, committees, and commissions with official Town of Harwich email addresses. Over these last few months of 2025, we held training sessions, drop-in assistance hours, and one-on-one meetings to help 160+ members get logged in and comfortable using their new accounts.

Previously, members had to use their personal email accounts for official Town correspondence. For privacy reasons, their personal accounts were not widely shared with the public. The new Town-issued accounts will improve records management and retention and will also make it easier for residents to contact committee members directly. The volunteers who serve on boards, committees, and commissions are often the first and best point of contact for the public on the topics in their jurisdiction. We hope these accounts will support them in the invaluable work they do for the Town.

Looking forward to 2026, we are gearing up for another technology investment – in electronic voting clickers for Town Meeting! In recent years, there has been growing momentum among Harwich voters to adopt this technology. The clickers are designed to allow voters to cast their yes or no votes by pressing a button on a clicker that is assigned to them at voter check in, rather than voting by voice or holding up a paper voting card for a standing count. The clickers should enhance speed and efficiency, particularly on matters that require a counted vote, and give voters the opportunity to cast their vote privately. At the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, voters supported an article to appropriate \$35,000 to allow the Town to rent these clickers for use at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. There will be an article seeking additional funding at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting that would support the purchase of clickers for ongoing use in future meetings.

Before Town Meeting, we plan to host demonstrations so voters can learn more about the clickers before using them officially on May 4th. Our Town Clerk’s Office team, the Moderator, and the electronic voting vendor will be working throughout the Meeting to ensure the technology works seamlessly. Some votes will still be taken by voice, while others will use the clickers, at the discretion of the Moderator.

We’re also getting ready to launch Harwich’s first ever “I Voted” sticker contest. Harwich kids will be invited to design these ever-coveted Election Day stickers. The winning designs will be printed in time for our 2026 Annual Town Election. I look forward to reporting on the outcome in next year’s report!

Statistics

All registered voters in the Town of Harwich are eligible to participate in our elections and town meetings. As of December 31, 2025, the voter registration breakdown by precinct and party affiliation was as follows:

	Precinct				
Party Affiliation	1	2	3	4	Party Totals
Democrat	716	674	579	575	2,544
Republican	438	342	350	325	1,455
Unenrolled	2,159	1,960	1,964	1,988	8,071
Enrolled in Other Designation	15	14	20	17	66
Precinct Totals	3,328	2,990	2,913	2,905	

Total Registered Voters: 12,136

In addition to the projects and initiatives mentioned above, our office completed many important annual and day-to-day functions. In 2025, we:

- Completed the Annual Census mailing and created the 2025 Street Listing,
- Licensed 1,467 dogs,
- Processed 139 new and renewed business certificates,
- Responded to 156 public records requests, providing records from 23 Town departments and committees,
- Recorded 345 vital records (68 births, 66 marriages, and 211 deaths),
- Swore in 69 elected and appointed board, committee, and commission members

We continued to serve as the primary local resource on certain state laws including the Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law, and Public Records Law, and acted as a central hub of information and support to the community.

Closing Notes

I wish to thank our Board of Registrars for their support of numerous essential Clerk's Office functions. The Registrars assist with elections, town meetings, voter registration, the certification of nomination and petition papers, the creation of the annual street listing, and more. The Board of Registrars consists of Shirley Knowles, Mary Ann Pina, Deborah Sementa, and myself. I offer my truest gratitude to Shirley, Mary Ann, and Deb for their efforts and support.

This year also brought staff transitions, with both Jennifer Clarke and Marissa El Sehrawey accepting positions in other departments. I don't have the words to thank them for their years of hard work and dedication to this office. Their commitment to this work never wavered, even during some impossibly busy and demanding election cycles. I wish them well in their new roles and look forward to continuing to work with them in new ways.

With their departures, we welcomed Jessica Goodell as our new Assistant Town Clerk in April and Jenna Nolan as our new Executive Assistant in May. Both stepped into their roles in this period of overlapping vacancies and at our busiest time of the year. They immediately rose to the occasion and met the moment with positivity, professionalism, and an eagerness to learn. Jessica started just two weeks before the Annual Town Meeting and quickly embraced the many details and responsibilities involved in preparing for and administering the Meeting. Jenna started just one week before our Annual Town Election. On her eighth day on the job, she was staffing the Clerk's Office independently on an Election Day, triaging voter questions

and concerns. Their readiness to step in, take ownership, and support both the office and the public during such a critical time speaks volumes about their character. Harwich is fortunate —and I am especially fortunate —to have two such dedicated and exceptional people serving our community.

At that same Annual Town Election, I was re-elected to serve my second term as your Town Clerk. I am endlessly thankful to the residents and voters of the Town of Harwich for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to work with you and for you in so many different ways. I can't imagine a better place to be.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Mitchell
Town Clerk

Vital Records for 2025

As recommended by the State Office of Vital Records, only the number of births, deaths, and marriages recorded in the last year are listed.

Births – 68

Marriages – 66

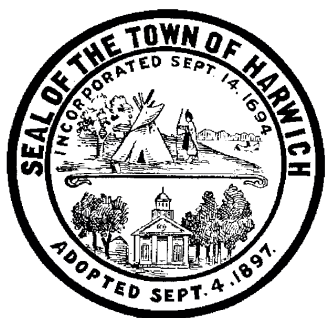
Deaths - 211

**Town Clerk’s Office Fee’s Collected Fiscal Year 2025
(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)**

Photocopies	\$0
Burial Permits	\$200.00
Dog Licenses	\$19,540.00
Utility Poles	\$400.00
Birth, Marriage, Death	\$20,090.00
Business Certificates	\$5,400.00
Raffle Permits	\$125.00
Gasoline Storage	\$100.00
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Fire	\$0
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Police	\$950.00
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Health	\$1,000
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Harbor	\$100.00
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Conservation	\$7,800.00
Non-Criminal Violation Payments - Building	\$450.00
Town Clerk Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,737.50

TOTAL FEES COLLECTED: \$57,892.50

**2025
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT
WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS**



**May 5, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Harwich Community Center
100 Oak Street
Harwich, MA 02645**

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 5, 2025**

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35.	Petitioned Article – Amend Chapter 125 of General Bylaws
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45. Fund Electronic Voting at Town Meetings
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47. Annual Allocation Cultural Council
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57. Herring Fisheries

Appendices

- A. Annual Town Election Warrant
- B. Fiscal Year 2026 Select Board Recommended Budget
- C. Capital Outlay Plan Fiscal Year 2026 - 2030

VOTING PROCEDURES

- I A quorum, 150 registered voters, must be present in order to conduct business. The only motion in order when no quorum is present is a motion to adjourn.
- II A two-thirds majority of the Town Meeting shall be required for inclusion of any Capital Outlay, unless it was included in the Capital Outlay Plan adopted at the preceding Town Meeting.
- III All motions introduced at the Town Meeting shall be in writing when required by the Moderator.
- IV Voters are limited to two times speaking on any one question; the total time speaking not to exceed 10 minutes.
- V Only registered voters shall occupy the meeting “floor”.
- VI No voter will be allowed to speak until he or she is recognized by the Moderator.
- VII Motion requiring more than a simple majority to pass:
 - A. To reconsider a vote on a motion – $\frac{3}{4}$ majority (this motion must be made prior to the next adjournment of the meeting).
 - B. To consider articles in an order other than as appears on the warrant – $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.
 - C. To pay unpaid bills – $\frac{4}{5}$ majority at the Annual Town Meeting, $\frac{9}{10}$ majority at a Special Town Meeting.
 - D. To move the previous question (terminate debate) – $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.
- VIII Quorum cannot be questioned after a motion has been made and seconded.

MOTION CHART Section 1-211
(Application of Rules is indicated by an X)

Motions	Debatable	Non Debatable	Amendable	Non Amendable	Second Required	Second Not Required	Majority Vote	2/3 Vote	¾ Vote	May Reconsider	Cannot Reconsider
Adjourn		X		X	X		X				X
Adjourn (in a time certain)	X		X		X		X			X	
Amendment	X		X		X		X			X	
Adopt a Resolution	X		X		X		X				X
Accept & Adopt	X		X		X		X ¹			X	
Postpone Indefinitely	X			X	X		X			X	
Previous Question		X		X	X			X			X
Terminate Debate											
Reconsider ²	X			X	X			X		X	
Consider Articles	X		X		X			X		X	
Out of Order											
Point of Order		X				X					
1. Unless a greater than simple majority required by General Laws of Town of Harwich by-laws.											
2. See section 1.207											

TAX RATE CHART

THE CHART BELOW SHOWS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED TO CHANGE THE FY 2025 TAX RATE.

TAX RATE CHANGE IN \$/1000	DOLLARS REQUIRED
\$ 0.01	\$101,704
\$ 0.05	\$508,520
\$ 0.10	\$1,017,040
\$ 0.15	\$1,525,560
\$ 0.20	\$2,034,080
\$ 0.25	\$2,542,600
\$ 0.30	\$3,051,120
\$ 0.35	\$3,559,640
\$ 0.40	\$4,068,160
\$ 0.45	\$4,576,680
\$ 0.50	\$5,085,200
\$ 0.55	\$5,593,720
\$ 0.60	\$6,102,240
\$ 0.65	\$6,610,761
\$ 0.70	\$7,119,281
\$ 0.75	\$7,627,801
\$ 0.80	\$8,136,321
\$ 0.85	\$8,644,841
\$ 0.90	\$9,153,361
\$ 0.95	\$9,661,881
\$ 1.00	\$10,170,401

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMS

APPROPRIATION: An authorization granted by a town meeting, city council or other legislative body to expend money and incur obligations for specific public purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and as to the time period within which it may be expended.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: Balances in the various fund types that represent nonrecurring revenue sources. As a matter of sound practice, they are frequently appropriated for unforeseen expenses, capital expenditures, or other one-time costs. Examples of available funds include free cash, stabilization funds, overlay surplus, water surplus, and retained earnings.

CHERRY SHEET: Named for the cherry-colored paper on which they were originally printed, the Cherry Sheet is the official notification to cities, towns, and regional school districts of the next fiscal year's state aid and assessments. The aid is in the form of distributions, which provide funds based on formulas and reimbursements that provide funds for costs incurred during a prior period for certain programs or services.

FREE CASH: Remaining, unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year, including unexpended free cash from the previous year, actual receipts in excess of revenue estimated on the tax recapitulation sheet, and unspent amounts in budget line items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as free cash.

OVERLAY (Overlay Reserve, or Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions): An account that funds anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions, and uncollected taxes. Additions to the overlay reserve need not be funded by the normal appropriation process but instead raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet.

RESERVE FUND: An amount (not to exceed 5 percent of the tax levy for the preceding year) set aside annually within a community's budget to provide a funding source for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. In a town, the finance committee can authorize transfers from this fund for "extraordinary or unforeseen" expenditures. Other uses of the fund require budgetary transfers by town meeting.

STABILIZATION FUND: A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL c. 40 § 5B). Communities may establish one or more stabilization funds for different purposes and may appropriate any amounts into them. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to establish, amend the purpose of, or appropriate money from a stabilization fund. A majority vote of town meeting is required to appropriate money into a stabilization fund.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMS RELATED TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

CAPITAL ASSETS: – Any tangible property used in the operation of government that is not easily converted into cash and that has an initial useful life extending beyond a single financial reporting period. Capital assets include land and land improvements; infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water and sewer lines; easements; buildings and building improvements; vehicles, machinery and equipment. Communities typically define capital assets in terms of a minimum useful life and minimum initial cost.

CAPITAL BUDGET: An appropriation or spending plan that uses borrowing or direct outlay for capital or fixed asset improvements. Among other information, a capital budget should identify the method to finance each recommended expenditure (e.g., tax levy or rates) and identify those items that were not recommended.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM: – A blueprint for planning a community's capital expenditures that comprises an annual capital budget and a five-year capital plan. It coordinates community planning, fiscal capacity, and physical development. While all the community's needs should be identified in the program, there is a set of criteria that prioritize the expenditures.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: The exchange of one asset (cash) for another (capital asset) with no ultimate effect on net assets. Also known as "pay as you go," it is the appropriation and use of available cash to fund a capital improvement, as opposed to incurring debt to cover the cost.

FIXED ASSETS: – Long-lived, tangible assets, such as buildings, equipment and land, obtained or controlled as a result of past transactions or circumstances.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMS RELATED TO PROPOSITION 2 ½ TERMS

Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws commonly referred to as Proposition 2 ½ (Prop. 2 ½) or the Tax Limiting Law for Cities and Towns in Massachusetts.

CAPITAL OUTLAY EXPENDITURE EXCLUSION: A temporary increase in the tax levy to fund a capital project or to make a capital acquisition. Such an exclusion requires a two-thirds vote of the selectmen or city council (sometimes with the mayor's approval) and a majority vote in a communitywide referendum. The exclusion is added to the tax levy only during the year in which the project is being funded and may increase the tax levy above the levy ceiling.

CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION: An appropriation that authorizes spending for a particular purpose only if subsequently approved in a voter referendum. Under MGL c. 59 § 21C (m), towns may make appropriations from the tax levy, available funds, or borrowing contingent on the subsequent passage of a Proposition 21/2 override or exclusion question for the same purpose. If initially approved at an annual town meeting, voter approval of the contingent appropriation must occur by September 15. Otherwise, the referendum vote must occur within 90 days after the town meeting dissolves. The question may be placed before the voters at more than one election, but if the appropriation is not approved by the applicable deadline, it is null and void. If contingent appropriations are funded through property taxes, DLS cannot approve the tax rate until the related override or exclusion question is resolved or the deadline passes, whichever occurs first.

DEBT EXCLUSION: An action taken by a community through a referendum vote to raise the funds necessary to pay debt service costs for a particular project from the property tax levy but outside of the limits under Proposition 21/2. By approving a debt exclusion, a community calculates its annual levy limit under Proposition 21/2, then adds the excluded debt service cost. The amount is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only and may increase the levy above the levy ceiling.

LEVY: The amount a community raises through the property tax. The levy can be any amount up to the levy limit, which is reestablished every year in accordance with Proposition 21/2 provisions.

LEVY CEILING: – A levy ceiling is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL c. 59 § 21C (Proposition 2 1/2). It states that, in any year, the real and personal property taxes imposed may not exceed 2

1/2 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property. Property taxes levied may exceed this limit only if the community passes a capital exclusion, debt exclusion, or special exclusion.

LEVY LIMIT: A levy limit is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL c. 59 § 21C (Proposition 21/2). It states that the real and personal property taxes imposed by a city or town may only grow each year by 2 1/2 percent of the prior year's levy

NEW GROWTH: The additional tax revenue generated by new construction, renovations and other increases in the property tax base during a calendar year. It does not include value increases caused by normal market forces or revaluations.

OVERRIDE: A vote by a community at an election to permanently increase the levy limit. An override vote may increase the levy limit no higher than the levy ceiling. The override question on the election ballot must state a purpose for the override and the dollar amount.

OVERRIDE CAPACITY: The difference between a community's levy ceiling and its levy limit. It is the maximum amount by which a community may override its levy limit.

Note: The glossary definitions found on pages 4, 5 and 6 of this Warrant were derived from the Municipal Glossary published the Division of Local Services (January 2020).

The entire glossary can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-governance-training-and-resources>

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HARWICH
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 5, 2025**

BARNSTABLE, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Harwich in said county,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Community Center Gymnasium, 100 Oak Street in said Town on May 5, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following articles:

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 7th day of April, 2025

s/ Jeffrey F. Handler, Chair
s/ Michal D. MacAskill, Vice Chair
s/ Peter J. Piekarski, Clerk
s/ Donald F. Howell
s/ Julie E. Kavanagh

Select Board
Town of Harwich

A true copy Attest:
s/ David Robinson, Constable

April 9, 2025

By virtue of this Warrant I have this day notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Harwich, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Harwich Community Center, 100 Oak Street in said Town on Monday, the 5th day of May, 2025, at the time and place for the purpose herein named by posting up attested copies thereon in the four (4) Post Office buildings, in Town Hall and Community Center in the Town of Harwich, which covers all four precincts, at least fourteen (14) days before the time of said meeting as within directed, and causing an attested copy thereof to be published in the Cape Cod Chronicle published in Barnstable County and having its circulation in the Town of Harwich.

s/ David Robinson, Constable

The Moderator, Michael D. Ford, Esq., called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The quorum of 150 voters was met with 357 voters in attendance at the start of the session and a total of 545 registered voters in attendance on Night One.

Before the town business began, Town Clerk Emily Mitchell read the Call of the Warrant and the Return of the Warrant at 7:10 PM.

Moderator Ford recognized Tom Evans, President of the Harwich Conservation Trust Board of Trustees to give a report on the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve Eco-Restoration Project.

Select Board Chair Jeffrey Handler recognized members Julie Kavanagh and Michael MacAskill for their service on the Select Board.

The Annual Town Meeting began with:

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 1: To choose various Town Officers and Committees.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 1 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Town Moderator Appointments

At this time, Moderator Michael D. Ford, Esq. reserved the right to make appointments.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 2: To hear reports of all Town Officers and Committees for the year 2024.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 2 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee, presented the report of the Finance Committee

Joyce McIntyre, Chair – Local Planning Committee, presented a report of the Local Planning Committee with an update on the status of preparing the next Local Comprehensive Plan.

ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote the salaries of the Elected Officials of the Town for fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 as follows; and to act fully thereon.

Select Board (5) - \$2,400.00 per member	\$12,000.00
Moderator	\$1,000.00
Board of Water & Wastewater Commissioners (5) - \$1,000.00 per member	\$5,000.00
Board of Library Trustees (7) - \$1,000.00 per member	\$7,000.00
Town Clerk	\$113,848.43
Totals	\$138,848.43

Explanation: This is a customary, required article to identify the salaries of elected officials of the Town of Harwich. The Town Clerk Salary is the equivalent of a position in the Personnel Bylaws Classification and Compensation table that would be at the M5, Step 10 level. All salaries listed above are found in and funded by the Operating Budget (Article 4, Appendix B).

This financial article is more of a boilerplate function. This article is necessary as the individuals represented above are not regular employees so their salaries/stipends must be approved as a separate article. The actual expenses are contained within the appropriate budget article (Article 4 for Library Trustees, Moderator, Select Board and Town Clerk, Article #7 for the Water/Wastewater Commissioners).

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted. Setting the Town elected officials' salaries at Town Meeting is a Harwich Home Rule Charter requirement which the Finance Committee supports. The funding for this article is contained in the general government operating budget article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0 ABSTAINED-1**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Mark Ameres, Daniel Tworek,

Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Abstained: 1 (One): Robert MacCready

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 3 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow such sums of money as may be required to defray Town charges for Fiscal Year 2026; and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board. (BUDGET – APPENDIX B). Estimated Cost: \$48,127,931

FUNDING SOURCES	
Betterments	\$80,000
Cable Fund	\$247,866
Free Cash	\$500,000
Golf Improvement Receipts Reserved	\$91,950
Harbor Improvement Fund	\$300,000
Harbor Waterways Fund	\$200,000
Overlay Surplus	\$200,000
Sale of Land/Sinking Fund	\$83,000
Special Purpose Wastewater Stabilization Fund	\$603,825
Wastewater Enterprise Indirect Costs	\$36,147
Water Enterprise Indirect Costs	\$904,087
Subtotal	\$3,246,875
Local Receipts	\$17,105,500
Taxes	\$27,775,556
Operating Budget	\$48,127,931

Explanation: The Town's Operating Budget (outlined in line-item detail in Appendix B showing salaries & wages as well as expenses) covers three main areas of expenditures: the Departmental Budgets, Debt Service ("payments" comprised of principal and interest) and Semi-fixed and Fixed Costs including the town's mandatory retirement contributions to the Barnstable County Retirement System as well as insurances (group health insurance and general insurance and deductibles). The use of retained earnings from the Water and Wastewater Departments is solely to account for the indirect costs provided by staff in the Operating Budget.

*Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the General Government for FY 2026. Since 2018, under a Select Board policy, the operating expenses of 204 Sisson Road have been accounted for in a designated revolving fund. This may have been appropriate during the early years of the town's assumption of the property as a result of the formation of the regional school district. However, we now have a clear and relatively consistent set of revenues and expenses for this building. Per MA Department of Revenue guidelines, building expenses are not an appropriate use of a revolving fund. The 204 Sisson Road property should be treated like the Community Center which has an operating budget and a revolving account for specific expenses of programs and activities and their associated fees and not building expenses such as gas, electric, water etc. **The***

Finance Committee strongly recommends the Select Board include the 204 Sisson Rd. Municipal Building as part of the operating budget in the next budget cycle.

FINANCE COMMITTEE THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.

VOTE: YES-7, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To Accept and Adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 4 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$48,127,931 be appropriated for the purposes listed in Appendix B under the column titled “2026 Select Board Recommend”, and further the sum of \$44,771,056 be raised and appropriated and the following amounts be transferred from the following sources:

\$80,000 from Betterment Funds, \$247,866 from the Cable PEG Fund, \$500,000 from Free Cash, \$91,950 from the Golf Improvement Receipts Reserved Fund, \$300,000 from Harbor Improvement Fund, \$200,000 from the Harbor Waterways Fund, \$200,000 from Overlay Surplus, \$83,000 from the Sale of Land/Sinking Fund, \$603,825 from the Wastewater Special Purpose Stabilization Fund, \$36,147 from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund, \$904,087 from the Water Enterprise Fund, \$60,000 from Article 12 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, \$50,000 from Article 40 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget for a total budget appropriation of \$48,127,931.

Duly seconded

Jeffrey Handler, Chair – Select Board, presented a report on the FY 2026 operating budget.

Motion to Amend: (Leo Cakounes) I move to amend the motion by reducing Line Item 122 Line 8, the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, to \$75,000, reducing the appropriation by a total of \$50,000, reducing the total FY 2026 to \$48,077,931. The reduction would come from the sum to be raised in taxes, reducing the amount to be raised in taxes from \$27,665,556 to \$27,615,556.

Duly seconded

Action on the Motion to Amend:

Moderator Ford took a voice vote on the motion to amend and ruled that the motion did not carry. Following Moderator Ford’s ruling, seven (7) voters questioned the Moderator’s call on the voice vote. Moderator Ford then called for a standing count to be taken.

The following tellers were sworn in by the Moderator to record standing counts: Edlow Banks, Joan McCarty, Jonas Robinson, and Lynne Zalesak.

The standing count results on the motion to amend were: Yes: 187, No: 258. The motion to amend did not carry.

Action on the Main Motion: The motion carried.

MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET ASSESSMENT

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow such sums of money as may be required to pay for the Monomoy Regional School District Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Monomoy Regional School Committee. Estimated cost: \$31,142,031.00

Operating	\$28,757,349
Capital	197,467
Transportation	691,832
Debt	1,495,383
Total Assessment - Harwich	\$31,142,031.00

Explanation: This article represents the total assessment for the Town of Harwich to the Monomoy Regional School District and reflects a 4.23% increase over the FY 2025 assessment rate.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that this budget be accepted and adopted, even though it has concerns with the ratio of staffing to student count and rapid increases in per-student spending. Furthermore, the committee believes that some of the proposed reductions that affect student learning and the quality of Monomoy’s educational experience should be reinstated, including the training needed to implement the co-teaching model that is very important to students with special education needs.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED:
YES-5, NO-2**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To Accept and Adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Scott Norum, Mark Ameres

Nays: 2 (Two): Mark Kelleher, Robert MacCready

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 5 be accepted and adopted, and that the sum of \$31,142,031 be raised and appropriated for the purpose of funding the Town of Harwich’s assessment for the FY 2026 annual operation of the Monomoy Regional School District.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET ASSESSMENT

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sufficient sum of money as may be required to pay for the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District. Estimated cost: \$2,116,618

Operating	\$1,528,927
Total Budget	\$587,691
Assessment for Town of Harwich	\$2,116,618

Explanation: This article represents the Town of Harwich's assessment obligation to the Cape Cod Regional Vocational Technical School District. The Town's assessment is down 3.43% from Fiscal Year 2025 due to lower Harwich student enrollment.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted for the Harwich assessment to fund the annual operation of the Regional Technical High School for FY 2026, and that \$2,116,618 be raised and appropriated for this purpose.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 6 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$2,116,618 be raised and appropriated to fund the annual operation of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow such sums of money as may be required to defray the Water Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, and to act fully thereon. Estimated cost: \$4,968,049.

Salaries	\$1,418,440
Expenses	\$1,869,889
Debt	\$725,633
Indirect Costs	\$904,087
OPEB	\$50,000
Total	\$4,968,049

By request of the Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Water Department for FY 2026, and that \$ 4,968,049 be transferred from the water enterprise fund for this purpose.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 7 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$4,968,049 be raised and appropriated from Water Department Receipts to operate the Water Department Operating Budget for this purpose: Salaries: \$1,418,440, Expenses: \$1,869,889, Debt: \$725,633, Indirect Costs: \$904,087. And further, to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Water Department Budget to Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund created under Article 8 of the May 6, 2024 Special Town Meeting.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow such sums of money as may be required to defray the Wastewater Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, and to act fully thereon. Estimated cost: \$708,825.

Salaries	\$226,965
Expenses	\$445,713
Indirect Costs	\$36,147
TOTAL	\$708,825

By request of the Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners.

Explanation: Funding for this article will come from Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings (\$105,000), and a subsidy through the General Fund (\$603,825).

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Wastewater/Sewer Department for FY 2026, and that \$708,825 be appropriated for this purpose.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 8 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$105,000 be transferred from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, and \$603,825 be raised and appropriated to fund the Wastewater Operating Budget for a total appropriation of \$708,825.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

MONOMOY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to approve of the \$9,007,030 debt authorized by the Monomoy Regional School District to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto and to act fully thereon.

By Request of Monomoy School Committee. Estimated Cost: \$9,007,030.

Explanation: The Town of Harwich's obligation for this total borrowing is \$6,918,300 (76.81%) based on a three-year (3) average of foundation enrollment. The town is seeking to exclude the debt service from

Proposition 2 ½ with a ballot question on this year's Annual Town Election ballot (Election Day – Tuesday, May 20, 2025). The regional school district is borrowing the amount; not the towns.

PROPOSITION 2 ½ Debt Exclusion – Corresponding debt exclusion ballot question (Question 3) on the May 20, 2025, Annual Town Election Ballot.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. At the time of the vote there were still many questions about the final funding. It was very important for the Finance Committee to have a position on this article so voters would have a voice in deciding whether or not to support it.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-4, NO-2**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek

Nays: 2 (Two): Mark Kelleher, Scott Norum

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair - Finance Committee): I move that Article 9 be accepted and adopted and that the Town approves the \$9,007,030 debt authorized by the Monomoy Regional School District to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that this approval shall have no effect unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude is allocable share of this debt from the provisions of G.L. c. 59, §21C (also known as Proposition 2 ½).

Duly seconded

A motion was made and duly seconded to terminate debate, requiring a 3/4 majority to pass. The motion to terminate debate carried unanimously.

Action: The motion carried.

LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to enter into various lease purchase financing agreements for town equipment included in the operating budget for FY 2026, said leases may be a term not to exceed the useful life of the equipment as determined by the Select Board; and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. ***Requires a 2/3 majority vote.***

Explanation: Massachusetts General Law, c. 44, §21C requires a recommendation by the Town Administrator and a two-thirds majority vote of Town Meeting whenever there are items to be funded by lease agreements

within the Operating Budget. The lease agreements funded by the operating budget relate to procurements for Fiscal Year 2026

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to meet State requirements of Municipal Finance lease purchase rules.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres,

Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant to authorize the Town to enter into various lease purchase financing agreements for town equipment included in the operating budget for FY 26, said leases may be for a term not to exceed the useful life of the equipment as determined by the Select Board.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion required a 2/3 vote to pass; the motion carried unanimously.

FUND CAPE COD COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds or borrow such sums of money that may be required for the purpose of funding the public access station, Cape Cod Community Media Center, 17 Shad Hole Rd. Dennis Port, MA 02639. Providing the public access television to the citizens of Harwich; and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$150,486.75.

Explanation: This customary article is funded from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund. The Town of Harwich receives funding from Comcast subscriber fees to fund and maintain Public, Education and Government television stations (PEG access). Under the current 10 year agreement with Comcast the Town will allocate funds directly to Cape Cod Community Media Center.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund access to local television for the coming year, and that \$150,487 be transferred from PEG Access Funds for this purpose.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres,

Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 11 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$150,486.75 be transferred from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –CHARTER COMMISSION

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand (\$125,000) dollars to cover anticipated expenses of the Harwich Home Rule Charter Commission and to act fully thereon. By Petition.

Estimated Cost: \$125,000

Explanation: A citizens' petition to create an independent 9 member Harwich Home Rule Charter Commission has been fully certified and the question of whether to create such a commission will appear on the May 2025 Annual Election Ballot. Funds will be needed for consulting and clerical services as well as required printing and mailing.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the new commission in their first year. This will give the commission the time to adopt and recommend proper operating budgets for future years. As we do with all elected officials, the Finance Committee will also consider the elected official for salaries for next year. We recommend that \$125,000 dollars be transferred from available funds for this purpose.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
WITH FUNDING TO BE DETERMINED. VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 1 (One): Donald Howell

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek,
Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$125,000 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.

Duly seconded

A motion was made and duly seconded to terminate debate, requiring a 3/4 majority to pass. The motion to terminate debate carried unanimously.

Action: A standing count was taken: Yes: 188, No: 177. The motion carried.

ADOPT THE CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Section 9-6 of the Town Charter to adopt the five (5) year Capital Outlay Plan for FY 2026 through FY 2030 as proposed by the Select Board and set forth in Appendix C of this Warrant, and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board. (APPENDIX C)

Explanation: The Harwich Charter requires the Town to adopt a five year capital outlay plan. Appendix C outlines the plan for fiscal year 2026 through 2030. There are 16 projects in fiscal year 2026. The funding sources for those projects are included in the following articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 20.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted as set forth in Appendix C of this warrant.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek,
Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 13 be accepted and adopted as set forth in Appendix C of this warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sufficient sum of money to fund the projects in the table below included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Outlay Plan, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$101,000.00.

Department	Amount (Use)	Source
Harwich Channel	\$26,000 (equipment upgrades)	Cable Fund
Harbormaster	\$75,000 (vehicle replacement)	Waterways Fund
Total	\$101,000.00	

Explanation: The Cable Fund balance was \$1,462,850.27 and the Waterway Fund balance was \$364,895.93 as of December 31, 2024.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$101,000 be transferred from various sources for this purpose. Improvements to cable access, improvements to the harbormaster's operation will be funded through various available funds.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$26,000 be transferred from the Cable PEG fund and \$75,000 be transferred from the Waterways Improvement Fund, for a total of \$101,000 for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM FREE CASH

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sufficient sum of money to fund the projects in the table below included in the FY 2026 Capital Outlay Plan, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$4,576,149.00.

Department	Project	Amount
Facilities Maintenance (DPW)	204 Sisson Road (\$265,000); 209 Queen Anne Road (DPW) (\$100,000); Brooks Academy (\$1,300,149)	\$1,665,149
Harbormaster	Saquatucket Bulkhead replacement design and permitting (\$770,000)	\$770,000
Information Technology	Technology reinvestment (\$250,000); electronic records/content management (\$100,000)	\$350,000
Police Department	Police cruiser replacements (\$210,000); equipment replacements (\$51,000)	\$261,000
Public Works	Vehicle replacements (\$830,000)	\$830,000
Public Works	Road Maintenance/Improvements (\$700,00)	\$700,000
Total from Free Cash		\$4,576,149

Explanation: Free cash was certified at \$5,821,439.00 as of January 28, 2025. If the amount referenced in this article is used, there will be a balance of \$1,245,290.00 which may be allocated for other uses within this warrant.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$4,576,149 be transferred from available funds for this purpose. This article will provide vehicle replacements, equipment, technology, harbor improvements, and building maintenance for many departments across the Town.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and further that the sum of \$4,576,149 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.
Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM GOLF IMPROVEMENT FUND

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow in accordance with Ch.44 of the M.G.L., or any other authorizing authority, the sum of \$2,500,000.00 to fund the Cranberry Valley Golf Course irrigation system upgrade, including all costs incidental and related thereto, as requested in the FY 2026 Capital Outlay Plan, and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$2,500,000.00. *Requires a 2/3 vote*

Irrigation Update	\$2,500,000.00
Total	\$2,500,000.00

Explanation: This project will replace the irrigation system heads and wiring but not the pipes. The current heads and wiring were installed twenty years ago and have reached their useful life causing a loss of coverage and efficiency in the irrigation system. The debt service on this project will be paid through the Golf Improvement Fund (a receipts reserved fund) which had a balance of \$532,374.00 as of February 1, 2025, sufficient to cover the anticipated annual payments.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$2,500,000 Debt be authorized to be paid from the golf improvement fund. This project was authorized in last year's capital plan, but no article was included in the warrant to support it. Last year's ATM voted to include the project in this year's plan for consideration.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and further, that the sum of \$2,500,000 be appropriated for this purpose including all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$2,500,000 pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Sections 7 and 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor; that while the bonds and notes so issued shall be general obligations of the Town, it is the intent that the principal and interest payments shall be made from the Golf Improvement Fund.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion required a 2/3 vote to pass; the Moderator ruled the vote received the necessary 2/3 majority and passed.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sufficient sum of money to fund the items in the table below included in the FY 2026 Capital Outlay Plan, and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board and the Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners.
Estimated cost: \$100,000.00

Pipe discontinuity upgrade	\$100,000.00
Total	\$100,000.00

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$100,000 be transferred from the water retained earnings to make collection system improvements for FY 2026.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 17 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$100,000 be transferred from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to make pipe discontinuity upgrades.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM WASTEWATER RETAINED EARNINGS

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sufficient sum of money to fund the items in the table below included in the FY 2026 Capital Outlay Plan, and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board and the Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners. Estimated cost: \$150,000.00.

Vehicle replacements	\$150,000.00
Total	\$150,000.00

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$150,000 be transferred from the Wastewater retained earnings to purchase a vehicle for this new department for FY 2026

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 18 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$150,000 be transferred from Wastewater Retained Earnings for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM BORROWING – FIRE DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow in accordance with Ch.44 of the M.G.L., or any other authorizing authority, the sum of \$2,400,000.00 to fund the acquisition of a new Pumper/Fire Engine and two (2) new ambulances as requested in the FY 2026 Capital Outlay Plan. The appropriation authorized by this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by M.G.L. c.59 § 21c (Proposition 2 ½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and the interest on any borrowing authorized under this article, and to act fully thereon.

By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$2,400,000.00. ***Requires a 2/3 vote***

Ambulances	\$1,100,000.00
Pumper/Fire Engine	\$1,300,000.00
Total	\$2,400,000.00

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to approve borrowing \$2,400,000.00 to purchase two (2) new ambulances and one (1) pumper/fire engine as requested by the Fire Department. Typically, the Town replaces ambulances every other year, however, given that build times are projecting out thirty-six (36) months from pre-COVID build times of six (6) to eight (8) months, the Fire Chief is seeking these purchases. Additionally, the Fire Chief is seeking the acquisition of pumper/fire engine to replace the current 2012 pumper/engine in operation today. Again, build times are now taking twenty-six (26) to thirty-eight (38) months to complete.

There will be a corresponding debt exclusion ballot question (Question 4) on the May 20, 2025, Annual Town Election Ballot.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$2,400,000 debt be authorized to purchase two (2) new ambulances and pumper.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 2 (Two): Dana DeCosta, Robert MacCready

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair - Finance Committee): I move that Article 19 be accepted and adopted and that the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,400,000 be appropriated for these purposes including all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$2,400,000 pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Sections 7 and 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor; provided, however, that any borrowing authorized hereunder shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion required a 2/3 vote to pass; the Moderator ruled the vote received the necessary 2/3 majority and passed.

GREAT SAND LAKES WASTEWATER CONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money to implement portions of Phase 8 of the Town of Harwich Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), approved by the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs in a Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Certificate dated May 13, 2016, consisting of the construction of sewers in the Great Sand Lakes area (Bucks Pond, John Joseph Pond, Kiddies Pond, Sand Lake) of Harwich, including any and all other costs incidental and related thereto; provided that any borrowing authorized hereunder shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$35,000,000.00.

Explanation: The proposed wastewater collections system is expected to protect from the potential for nutrients to leach from the septic systems into the freshwater ponds resulting in degraded pond water quality. The project is presently listed in the 2025 Intended Use Plan (Draft until March 2025) making the town eligible to seek reimbursement of some loan costs as well as 0% to 2% interest loans from the Clean Water Trust and State Revolving Fund.

PROPOSITION 2 ½ Debt Exclusion – Corresponding debt exclusion ballot question (Question 5) on the May 20, 2025, Annual Town Election Ballot.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$35,000,000 of debt be authorized for portions of Phase 8 of the wastewater plan. Authorizing this project will make the Town eligible for reimbursement for some loan costs as well as 0% to 2% interest loans from the Clean Waters Trust and the State Revolving Fund.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-5, NO-2**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 3 (Three): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 2 (Two): Julie Kavanagh, Donald Howell

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 2 (Two): Dana DeCosta, Robert McCready

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant and that \$35,000,000 be appropriated for this purpose; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to C.L. c. 29C, G.L. c. 44, §7(1), §8(14), or pursuant to any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or note of the Town therefor; that all or any portion of the amount authorized to be borrowed by this vote may be obtained through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the “Trust”); that in connection with any borrowing through the Trust, the member of the Select Board, the Town Treasurer, and any other appropriate officers of the Town are each authorized to execute and deliver any and all agreements with the Trust and the Commonwealth’s Department of Environmental Protection that may be necessary to obtain any such borrowing; providing, however, that no amounts shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts required to repay any borrowing authorized by this vote from the property tax levy limits imposed by G.L. c. 59, §21C (also known as Proposition 2 ½).

Duly seconded

A motion was made and duly seconded to terminate debate, requiring a 3/4 majority to pass. The motion to terminate debate carried unanimously.

Action: The motion required a 2/3 vote to pass. A standing count was taken: Yes: 288, No: 30. The motion carried.

Peter Hughes made a motion that was duly seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting until May 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Harwich Community Center. The first night of Town Meeting adjourned at 10:47 PM.

May 6, 2025

The Moderator, Michael D. Ford, Esq., opened the adjourned Annual Town Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The quorum of 150 was met, with 236 voters in attendance at the start of the session and a total of 287 voters registered in attendance for Night Two.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –ACCEPT FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR GREAT SAND LAKES SEWER
EXTENSION

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to accept funds allocated in the Massachusetts Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan 2025 for the purpose of sewer line construction along Queen Anne Road in East Harwich.

Explanation: The Town of Harwich submitted an application to the State Revolving Fund for the purpose of constructing sewer lines along Queen Anne Road in East Harwich as Phase 3A of the sewer construction plan. The Draft Intended Use Plan published by the SRF includes a funding amount of \$31,130,000 for Harwich for the project. Acceptance of the funds will help offset expenditures related to Phase 3A. Prioritizing the construction of sewers along Queen Anne Road relates to the presence of town wells for drinking water to the south of the proposed sewer lines, protection of the water quality in John Joseph and Bucks Ponds, and efficient use of unused sewer flow allocations that Harwich pays the Town of Chatham for wastewater treatment.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be indefinitely postponed. The intent of this article is covered by adopting the previous article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero):None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I moved that this article be indefinitely postponed.
Duly seconded

Action: The article was indefinitely postponed.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT - HOUSEKEEPING FOR TRUE-UP OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDING
FOR OPEN SPACE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND COMMUNITY HOUSING RESERVES

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to approve and allocate the following additional funds into the Open Space Reserve, Historic Preservation Reserve, and Community Housing Reserve from FY2024 Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to ensure the individual reserves reflect prior year revenues from FY2021, FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024.

APPROPRIATION	FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund Balance
Open Space Reserve	\$ 350,581.51
Historic Preservation Reserve	\$ 350,581.51
Community Housing Reserve	\$ 350,581.51

and to act fully thereon

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This article adds the correct amounts for each designated fund. Open space, historic preservation, and community housing at \$350,581.51 each from the FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund Balance.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

David Nixon, Chair – Community Preservation Committee, provided a report on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) articles. The Community Preservation Committee recommended favorable action on all CPA-related articles, numbers 22-33.

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 22 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$350,581.51 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Undesignated Fund to Open Space Reserve, that \$350,581.51 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Undesignated Fund to Historic Preservation Reserve, that \$350,581.51 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Undesignated Fund to Community Housing Reserve.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT - HOUSEKEEPING EXPENSES

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Preservation Budget, as required by G.L., Chapter 44B and Chapter 149, Section 298 of the Acts of 2004, and to reserve for future spending the following amounts from Community Preservation Act Fund FY 2026 Estimated Annual Revenue as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, with each item considered a separate appropriation:

- A sum of money for the acquisition, creation, and preservation of the open space;
- A sum of money for the acquisition, preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic resources;
- A sum of money for the acquisition, creation, preservation, and support of community housing;
- And the remainder of Anticipated Revenues to be placed in the Undesignated Fund Balance to be available for use for open space, historic, community housing, and recreation in accordance with the Community Preservation Act requirements.

APPROPRIATION	FY 2026 Estimated Revenue
Open Space Reserve	\$ 270,000.00
Historic Preservation Reserve	\$ 270,000.00
Community Housing Reserve	\$ 270,000.00

and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This customary article sets the limits for each designated fund. Open space, historic preservation, and community housing at \$270,000 each from the FY 2026 estimated revenue.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 23 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$270,000.00 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Estimated Revenue to Open Space Reserve, that \$270,000.00 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Estimated Revenue to Historic Preservation Reserve, that \$270,000.00 be transferred from Community Preservation FY 2026 Estimated Revenue to Community Housing Reserve.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000.00 from FY2026 Anticipated Revenue to fund the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This customary article provides \$50,000 for administrative purposes from the FY 2026 estimated revenue.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED

VOTE: YES-8, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that the sum of \$50,000 be transferred from FY 2026 Undesignated Revenue for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – LOWER CAPE HOUSING INSTITUTE

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$10,000.00 from the certified Community Housing Reserve for a grant to the Lower Cape Housing Institute; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Explanation: Funds to support the Community Development Partnership's Lower Cape Housing Institute which provides education to local elected and appointed officials that help support Affordable Housing development in their town.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0, ABSTAINED-1**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Abstained: 1 (One): Robert MacCready

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$10,000 be transferred from the FY 2024 Certified Community Housing Reserve for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$500,000 from the Certified Community Housing Reserve to fund the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 5-0-1.

Explanation: Fund the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust to allow for the analysis, promotion of public discussion, and creation of Affordable Housing Units to meet critical housing needs.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 26 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$346,679.20 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Community Housing Reserve and \$153,320.80 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – FORWARD AT THE ROCK GRANT

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$120,000 from the Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to fund a grant for the Forward at the Rock project, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a grant agreement which shall include an affordable housing restriction; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0

Explanation: Support for Cape-wide multi-town regional housing project – new construction of 8 affordable and supportive 1-bedroom apartments for Cape Codders with autism and related disabilities.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0, ABSTAINED-1**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Abstained: 1 (One): Mark Ameres

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 27 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$120,000 be transferred from the FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund balance for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – NORTH HARWICH CEMETERY GRAVESTONE
PRESERVATION PROJECT**

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$37,015.00 from the certified Historic Preservation Reserve to fund the North Harwich Gravestone Preservation Project; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Explanation: Funding to support the repair and restoration of gravestones at the North Harwich cemetery (associated with the First Baptist Church).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 28 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$37,015 be transferred from the FY 2024 Certified Historic Preservation Reserve for this purpose.

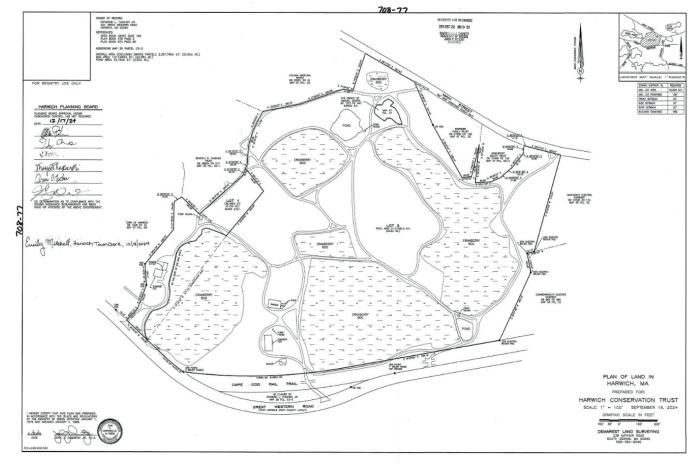
Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – CAPE COD RAIL TRAIL PROJECT

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, and acting pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C, and Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, a perpetual conservation restriction under General Laws Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33 for open space, passive recreation, habitat restoration and protection, and water resource protection purposes, on a parcel of land designated on Harwich Assessors' Map 38 as Parcel G3-2, addressed as 379 Main Street, Harwich (North), MA 02645, described in a deed recorded with the Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Book 36787, Page 41 and shown as Lot 2, Total Area 2,131,581 +/- S.F. (48.9+/- AC.), on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land In Harwich, MA. prepared for: Harwich Conservation Trust, Scale 1" = 100', September 18, 2024", by Demarest Land Surveying, 338 Mayfair Road, South Dennis MA, 02660," said plan recorded with the Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 708, Page 77, with the care, custody, control and management of said conservation restriction to be vested in the Conservation Commission under General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C; to appropriate and transfer from available funds, including, without limitation, the Community Preservation Fund, pursuant to Chapter 44B § 1 et seq. (The "Massachusetts Community Preservation Act"), Chapter 149, §298 of the Acts of 2004, and Chapter 352, §129-133 of the Acts of 2004, the sum of five-hundred thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$500,000.00) for the foregoing acquisition and costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, costs of appraisals and closing costs; to authorize the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission to apply for, accept, and expend any grants and/or reimbursement of funds which may be provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to defray all or a portion of the foregoing costs, including, but not limited to, funding under the Self-Help Act (G.L. c.132A, §11), the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L. 88-568, 78 Stat 897), and/or other federal and state programs in any way related to the scope of this article; and, further, to authorize the Select Board and/ or the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing purposes and acquisition; provided that any funds left unspent from this Article are to be returned to the Community Preservation Act Funds –Open Space Reserve; and to act fully thereon or to take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Community Preservation Committee and Harwich Conservation Trust
Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0. Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Explanation: Harwich Conservation Trust seeks a partnership with the town to preserve approx. 30 acres of upland and 20 acres of bog adjacent to the Cape Cod Rail Trail and to protect scenic views from both the bike path and Great Western Road. The Town of Harwich would hold a Conservation Restriction on the acquired lands. [See map of area directly below]



**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that Article 29 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$382,879.83 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Open Space Reserve Fund and \$117,120.17 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – HERRING RIVER BOARDWALK PROJECT – DESIGN AND PERMITTING

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$168,000 from the Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the Herring River Boardwalk Project; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Explanation: This project, submitted by the Conservation Agent, would include the study, design and permitting of a raised boardwalk leading to an existing pedestrian bridge over the Herring River in the Bells Neck Conservation area.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 30 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$168,000 be transferred from the FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund balance for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – BROOKS PARK INFIELD REPLACEMENT PROJECT

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$143,000.00 from the Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the Brooks Park Infield Replacement Project; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0

Explanation: Funding will cover grading, materials and labor for the installation of a new infield at Brooks Park baseball field on Oak Street.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 31 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$143,000 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund Balance for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – SAND POND RESTROOM

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$33,000.00 from the Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the Sand Pond Restroom Project; and to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0

Explanation: Funding to support the completion of the Sand Pond Restroom project – total project includes a new pre-cast concrete restroom facility and associated new septic system.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED

VOTE: YES-8, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 32 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$33,000 be transferred from FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund balance for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – VETERAN’S FIELD SHADE PROJECT

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$100,000.00 from Certified Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the Veterans’ Field Shade Project; or to act fully thereon.

Community Preservation Committee Recommends by a vote of 6-0.

Explanation: Funding request for the construction of a shade structure at the Veteran’s Memorial Field complex behind the Community Center.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes – Chair, Finance Committee) I move that Article 33 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$100,000 be transferred from the FY 2024 Certified Undesignated Fund balance for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –HIRE A TREE WARDEN

ARTICLE 34: To see if the town will vote to hire a tree warden who will work part time under MGL Chapter 87, Shade Trees of Massachusetts General Laws. He would regulate shade trees in public places. The warden would have the authority to remove dangerous and dying trees without a hearing, to prune for safety

and health, to identify planting sites and to place new trees. Non dangerous tree removal would require a public hearing. The position would be an annual appointment.

Estimated Cost: \$25,000

Explanation: Presently the various town departments, or the Town Administrator, has the power to unilaterally remove trees deemed problematic to specific department goals, or simply for expediency's sake. This needs to stop. An overarching conversation needs to occur before a town board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-5, NO-2

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 2 (Two): Julie Kavanagh and Donald Howell

Nays: 3 (Three): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler and Peter Piekarski

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Robert MacCready, Daniel Tworek, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum, Peter Hughes

Nays: 2 (Two): Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres

Motion: (Matt Sutphin, Lead Petitioner) I move that that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

A motion was made and duly seconded to terminate debate, requiring a ¾ majority to pass. The motion to terminate debate carried unanimously.

Action: The motion carried.

PETITIONED ARTICLE - AMEND CHAPTER 125 OF GENERAL BYLAWS

ARTICLE 35: To amend chapter 125 of General Bylaws: deleting Article II and Article IV completely.

Explanation:

ARTICLE II : The ban of single-use plastic water bottles in the town of Harwich. This article is extremely detrimental to our town as well as its residents and guests. The inability to provide a healthy choice in single use bottles by a ban is not a solution to the plastics problem, in fact i have seen no significant reduction in the plastics of this type, recycled or dumped at our town facilities. A high percentage of Harwich residents and guests continue to travel to neighboring towns to purchase these water products. In fact the Town of Harwich had to travel to Hyannis and purchase many pallets of single use water bottles for our resident during a water emergency. This out of town purchasing hurts our local businesses. Un ban this ban and let's return to a healthy option for residents and guests alike.

ARTICLE IV

The ban of single use plastic food service containers, utensils and all associated plastics in this article has little or no merit in reducing plastics this ban is a huge financial burden to our local Harwich restaurants and food establishments. The costs can sometimes exceed an additional 40%. It's about freedom of choice, so let's be American and allow for that choice.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-6, NO-2**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Peter Piekarski

Abstained: 1 (One): Donald Howell

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 6 (Six): Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 2 (Two): Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta

Motion (Jeffrey Handler, Chair – Select Board): I move that Article 35 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Motion to Amend (Patrick Otton): I move to amend the main motion to read as follows: to amend Chapter 125 of the General Bylaws removing Article II from Article 35.

Duly seconded

Moderator Ford clarified that the motion to amend would remove the reference to deleting Article II of Chapter 125 of the General Bylaws from the main motion. If the motion to amend was voted favorably, the main motion would consider deleting only Article IV from Chapter 125 of the General Bylaws.

Action on the Motion to Amend: A standing count was taken using the same tellers who had been duly sworn on the first night of Town Meeting: Yes: 132, No: 110. The motion carried.

Action on the Amended Main Motion: The motion carried.

Moderator Ford recessed the meeting at 8:26 PM; he resumed the meeting at 8:28 PM.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize and ask the Select Board to petition the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation, the text of which is set forth, prohibiting the application of fertilizer in the Town of Harwich except for the purposes of commercial

agriculture and the residential use of organic fertilizer with low nitrogen and phosphorus for the use in growing fruits, vegetables and gardens that is allowable under the USDA National Organic Program organic standards (OMRI listed).

(please see attached further Article)

Explanation:

This Home Rule petition asks the state legislature to allow the Town of Harwich to establish its own fertilizer regulations. Beacon Hill does not have the seashore, ponds, embayments and estuaries. These are all endangered by human sourced pollution of nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizers. Harwich's 22 ponds and 11+ miles of coastline are the life and assets for all residents, property owners, visitors and businesses in Harwich. It is the reason we live here and they need to be protected and cared for.

(please see attached further Explanation)

ARTICLE

Authorize special act to enable Harwich to regulate the application of fertilizers

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and ask the Select Board to petition the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation, the text of which is set forth below, prohibiting the application of fertilizer in the Town of Harwich except for the purposes of commercial agriculture and the residential use of organic fertilizer with low nitrogen and phosphorus for the use in growing fruits, vegetables and gardens that is allowable under the USDA National Organic Program organic standards (OMRI listed), and to authorize the General Court, with the approval of the Select Board, to make changes of form to the text thereto as may be necessary or advisable in order to accomplish the intent and public purpose of this legislation in order to secure passage, as follows:

An Act prohibiting the application of fertilizer used in the Town of Harwich except for the purposes of commercial agricultural and the residential use of organic fertilizer with low nitrogen and phosphorus for the use in growing fruits, vegetables and gardens that is allowable under the USDA National Organic Program organic standards (OMRI listed).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. There is sound scientific evidence to conclude that nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizers are contaminants that negatively affect fresh and salt waters when present in excessive amounts. These excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus contribute to undesirable algae and aquatic plant growth within all Harwich water bodies. This undesirable algae and aquatic plant growth has an adverse effect on public health through the degradation of waters used for drinking water, shell fishing, and recreational swimming and boating.

Section 2. It is necessary to prohibit the application of fertilizer that contains phosphorus and nitrogen so as to improve the water quality of the Town of Harwich. The soils of Harwich are unique insofar as Harwich has significant amounts of coarse, sandy soils that are subject to rapid water infiltration, percolation and leaching of nutrients, and such unique local conditions require that Harwich prohibit the application of nitrogen and

phosphorus added to soils through the application of fertilizers. This Act should help Harwich to achieve compliance with the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) prescribed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for nitrogen and phosphorus in its waters.

Section 3. Notwithstanding any General or Special law to the contrary, including but not limited to any General or Special law conferring exclusive authority upon the Department of Agriculture to regulate and control the application of fertilizers elsewhere in the Commonwealth, the application of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus, or any other pollutants in the Town of Harwich is prohibited, except for the purposes of commercial agricultural and the residential use of organic fertilizer with low nitrogen and phosphorus for the use in growing fruits, vegetables and gardens that is allowable under the USDA National Organic Program organic standards (OMRI listed).

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon passage. Or to take any other action related thereto.

PROPOSED MOTION

I move this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant and that the Select Board be authorized to approve the final language of the Special Legislation.

SUMMARY

Water is what brings people here and makes us want to stay in this special place of ours. Water is our most valuable environmental resource and our most valuable economic asset. It directly or indirectly affects every resident, property owner, visitor, and business in Harwich. Harwich has 22 ponds/lakes and 11 miles of coastline, water is our lifeblood and it is our responsibility to keep it healthy and protect what we love. Yes, please move forward to regulate fertilizers. Supporting the preparation of a Home Rule Petition an act addressing clean and healthy waters will protect Harwich's environment, wildlife, residents, visitors, pets, economy and property values before all is lost.

Authorize special act to enable Harwich to regulate the application of fertilizers

(Background Information/Justification)

Why do you live on Cape Cod? The seashore? The ponds? The woodlands? The embayments? The estuaries? All of these are under sever threat of degradation and loss due to the impact of human development. Speaking only of water quality, human behavior degrades water in three principal causes: septic systems, fertilizers, and run-off.

Nitrogen harms all salt water ecosystems and life. Phosphorous harms all fresh water ecosystems and life. Given our sandy soil, a permeable sand bar, above a sole-source aquifer for which we rely for our drinking water, these elements quickly permeate and spread throughout the Cape.

The number one source of nitrogen pollution and phosphorus pollution are septic systems.

Fix: Sewering	Cost: \$4,000,000,000.00 (Billion)	Time: 50 years
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The number two source of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium pollution are chemical fertilizers.

Fix: Stop applying chemical fertilizers	Cost: \$0.00 (Nothing)
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Time: Today, Immediate

The third source of water contamination is run-off from down-hill waterfront landscaped lots and roadways.

Fix: Stop applying chemical fertilizers, build roadway catch basins Cost: tbd Time: on-going

Nantucket, Orleans, Wellfleet and Eastham have successfully passed via town meetings to ask the MA legislature for Home rule on regulating fertilizers. Yes, this is a 'hot' topic, pros & cons, questions on how to implement, how to enforce, how to educate, what alternatives are available, etc. etc. Orleans has lead the way, done the hard work and it is all summarized on the Orleans' town web page.

see: <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/1109/Fertilizer-Home-Rule-Petition-2022>

The native and natural ecology of Cape Cod long ago figured out how to thrive and grow with our sandy soil and intermittent rains. Both the seashore and the ponds thrived with life. However today with our current landscaping habits and practices we are endangering the environment we live in. Nitrogen and phosphorous pollution on Cape Cod is negatively affecting our fresh water ponds and seashore – those very resources for which we live and visit the Cape.

Beacon Hill is not on Cape Cod. Given our local conditions and risks to our environment the Town of Harwich should be able to establish its own fertilizer regulations. This petition will ask the state legislature to allow Harwich to establish its own fertilizer regulations rather than Beacon Hill. Until permission from the MA legislature is given there will be no change in the current landscaping practices.

In 2021 Harwich had to rescind an earlier fertilizer regulation made that year by the Board of Health. Please, lets move forward to regulate fertilizers, making it a little easier to live on Cape Cod, to appreciate what we have before it is all lost. Cape Cod is a seasonal tourist based economy, what will it look like with further cyanobacteria algae blooms, loss of eelgrass, loss of shellfish, etc.? Cape Cod is not an urban environment. Trying to make it so is destroying the very essence of why we choose to live on Cape Cod.

Water is what brings people here and makes us want to stay in this special place of ours. Water is our most valuable environmental resource and economic asset. It directly or indirectly affects every resident, property owner, visitor, and business in Harwich. Harwich has 22 ponds/lakes and 11+ miles of coastline. Water is our lifeblood and it is our responsibility to keep it healthy and protect what we love.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.

VOTE: YES-5, NO-2

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Zero): Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 2 (Two): Peter Hughes, Mark Ameres

Motion: (Robert MacCready, Vice Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 36 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: A standing count was taken: Yes: 94, No: 134. The motion did not carry.

PETITIONED ARTICLE – HOME RULE PETITION: PESTICIDES

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize and ask the Select Board to petition the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation, authorizing the Town to adopt a Pesticide Reduction Bylaw (the bylaw), the text of which is set forth below, and to authorize the General Court, with the approval of the Select Board, to make changes of form to the text thereto as may be necessary or advisable in order to accomplish the intent and public purpose of this legislation in order to secure passage; and vote to adopt the bylaw.

EXPLANATION

This Home Rule petition asks the state legislature to allow the Town of Harwich to establish its own pesticide regulations. The purpose of this bylaw is to reduce toxic pesticide use in and on public and private property in the Town of Harwich in order to promote a healthy environment and to protect the public and environment from the hazards of pesticides and for implementation of sustainable land and building management practices on all public and private property.

PESTICIDE REDUCTION BYLAW

§1. Purpose.

The purpose of this bylaw is to reduce toxic pesticide use in and on public and private property in the Town of Harwich in order to promote a healthy environment and to protect the public from the hazards of pesticides, and for implementation of sustainable land and building management practices on all public and private property.

§2. Findings.

A. Scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with asthma, cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects, and disruption of the endocrine system.

B. Infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure.

C. Pesticides are harmful to pets and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems.

D. Toxic runoff from chemical fertilizers and pesticides pollute streams, lakes, estuaries, and drinking water sources.

E. The use of pesticides is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes given the availability of viable alternatives practices and products.

F. People have a right not to be involuntarily exposed to pesticides in the air, water or soil that inevitably result from chemical drift and contaminated runoff.

G. Sustainable land and building management practices that emphasize non-chemical methods of pest prevention and management, and least-toxic pesticide use as a last resort, will eliminate the use of and exposure to pesticides while controlling pest populations.

H. Sustainable land and building management practices complement other important goals of Harwich's maintenance and administration, such as energy conservation and security.

I. Harwich embraces a precautionary approach to the use of pesticides in order to adequately protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticides.

J. Application of chemicals simply for aesthetic/cosmetic purposes has harmful consequences for our ecosystem, children and pets. Pollinators are directly harmed by applications particularly the indiscriminate (and long-term ineffective) spraying of pesticides.

§3. Authority.

This bylaw is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution and the provisions of any Special Legislation passed by the Legislature.

§4. Definitions.

For the purposes of this bylaw, the following definitions shall apply:

Allowed Materials List - The list of acceptable pesticides is limited to the following:

- 1) All non-synthetic (natural) materials, with the exception of prohibited non-synthetic materials under 7 CFR 205.602;
- 2) Any synthetic material listed at 7 CFR 205.601 that is labeled for turf uses, subject to discretionary authority to require disclosure of inert ingredients; and
- 3) 25b listed pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Inert ingredient - Any substance (or group of substances with similar chemical structures if designated by the Environmental Protection Agency) (EPA) other than an active ingredient that is intentionally included in any pesticide product (40 CFR 152.3(m)) [7 CFR 205.2 Terms defined.], and are not classified by the EPA Administrator as inserts of toxicological concern. [7 U.S.C. 6502(21) Definitions]

Non-synthetic (natural) materials - A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process as defined in section 6502(21) of the Organic Foods Production Act. For the purposes of this part, 'non-synthetic' is used as a synonym for natural as the term is used in the regulations. [7 CFR 205.2 Terms defined.]

Pesticide — Any substance or mixture of substances intended for: (i) preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest; (ii) use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant; or (iii) use as a spray adjuvant such as a wetting agent or adhesive. The term 'pesticide' includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides, but does not include cleaning products other than those that contain pesticidal agents.

Synthetic materials - A substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources,

except that such term shall not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes. [7 U.S.C. 6502(21) Definitions]

§5. Prohibitions.

The application of any Pesticide that is not on the Allowed Material List is prohibited, except as permitted in this bylaw.

§6. Exceptions.

A. The application of the following Pesticides is allowed:

1. Indoor pest sprays and insect baits (excluding rodent baits)
2. Insect repellants for personal and household use
3. Pet: Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
4. Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizer
5. Products labeled primarily to kill mold and mildew
6. Usage for commercial farming and nurseries.

B. Pesticides for the treatment of invasive plants for ecological restoration (see Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group current lists of Invasive, Likely Invasive, and Potentially Invasive <https://www.massnrc.org/mipag/> may be used upon the grant of a waiver by the Town Manager or authorized designee.

C. If an emergency public health situation warrants the use of Pesticides, which would otherwise not be permitted under this bylaw, the Town Manager or authorized designee shall have the authority to grant a temporary waiver on a case-by-case basis after an evaluation of all alternative methods and materials.

§7. Enforcement.

The enforcement authority shall be the Town Manager, or any town officials as designated by the Select Board to oversee and enforce the provisions of this bylaw.

§8. Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each offense thereafter. Each day or portion thereof during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense and a violation of each provision of the bylaw shall constitute a separate offense.

If the offender is a commercial applicator, the right to do business in Harwich may be revoked.

§9. Severability.

The provisions of this bylaw are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this bylaw.

Provided, that this bylaw is subject to the Town obtaining special legislation from the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts authorizing the Pesticide Reduction Bylaw as aforesaid; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

SUMMARY

The article authorizes the Select Board to file special legislation authorizing the adoption of the proposed bylaw as the application of pesticides in Harwich is currently primarily regulated by state and federal law. This article also proposes the adoption of a bylaw that seeks to reduce toxic pesticide use in and on public and private property in order to promote a healthy environment and to protect the public from the hazards of pesticide use. It does not prohibit businesses from selling products containing pesticides to anyone.

PROPOSED MOTION

I move this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant and ask the Select Board to be authorized to petition the Great and General Court for special legislation as set forth therein and that the Pesticide Reduction Bylaw be adopted subject to the approval of the special legislation.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.
VOTE: YES-5, NO-2**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Robert MacCready, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Michele Galucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 2 (Two): Peter Hughes, Daniel Tworek

Motion: (Robert MacCready, Vice Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 37 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: A standing count was taken: Yes: 97, No: 112. The motion did not carry.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to add new Chapter: Tree Preservation Bylaw to the Harwich General Bylaws as follows:

HARWICH TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW

§175-1 PURPOSE & INTENT

The Harwich Tree Preservation Bylaw encourages the preservation and protection of trees on residential, commercial and industrial lots during building activities as defined in this Bylaw and monitors for their survival after construction.

This Bylaw does not prohibit a landowner's right to remove a protected tree. Removal of protected trees will be authorized so long as the property owner undertakes one of the mitigation options set forth herein. This Bylaw incentivizes the preservation of protected trees by requiring property owners to compensate for any Protected Trees that are removed, either by planting new ones or by contributing to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account that supports the Town's tree planting and maintenance efforts.

This Bylaw does not discourage the removal of hazardous trees (as defined herein) for reasons of public health and safety nor does this Bylaw discourage the removal of a tree(s) that by size or otherwise is not subject to the protections set forth herein.

This Bylaw defines which trees are of preservation value ("Protected Trees") and designates the area(s) of a lot or parcel where those trees are protected ("Tree Yard").

Trees cannot be assigned a monetary value, they are 'priceless.' The preservation of existing trees and the promotion of new tree planting is a public purpose that protects the ecology and public health, welfare, environment and aesthetic character of the Town of Harwich and its residents. Trees serve a variety of functions that this Bylaw intends to protect and enhance. These valuable functions include but are not limited to reducing energy consumption, providing shade, improving air quality, providing vital wildlife habitat, erosion control, reducing storm-water runoff, buffering noise pollution, increasing property values, and positively contributing to the visual character of the Town.

§175-2 DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Bylaw, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section:

AGGREGATE DIAMETER: The combined diameter of a multiple-trunk tree measured at breast height. Breast height: see definition below.

BUILDING ACTIVITY: One of the following types of work performed on a lot:

- *Work performed pursuant to a special permit (as defined in MGL Ch. 40A Sec. 9 and the Harwich Zoning Bylaw);*

- *Work performed pursuant to site plan approval (as defined in the Harwich Zoning Bylaw);*
- Construction of a new dwelling (including after razing an existing dwelling);
- Construction of a structure on a vacant lot;
- Construction of a subdivision;
- Construction of a structure or addition that increases the gross floor area of a residential, commercial, or industrial structure by 50% or more;
- Demolition of a structure(s) with a footprint of 250 square feet or greater;
- Construction of any accessory structures requiring a building permit including but not limited to sheds 200 square feet, detached garages, pools, retaining walls with a height of four feet or greater; or
- Clearing, grading, grubbing or other site preparation work performed prior to undertaking any of the above.

CERTIFICATE OF

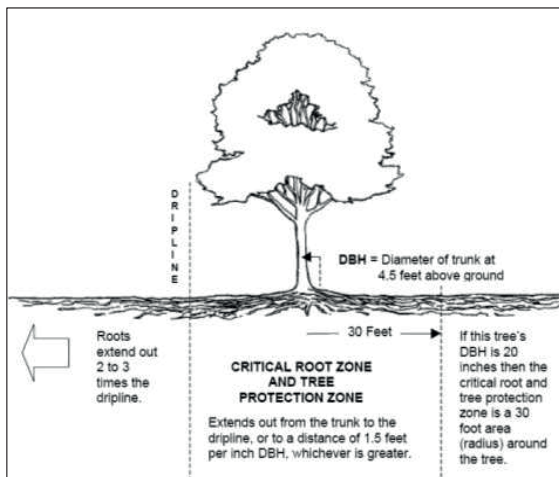
EXEMPTION: Formal permission granted to proceed with building activity without the need for a tree permit.

CERTIFIED ARBORIST: An arborist certified by the Massachusetts Arborists Association or International Society of Arboriculture, or any successor organization.

CRITICAL ROOT ZONE

(CRZ): The minimum area beneath the tree canopy of a tree which must be left undisturbed in order to preserve a sufficient root mass to give a tree a reasonable chance of survival. The CRZ is represented by a circle centering on the tree's trunk and extending outwards towards the tree's drip line. The minimum radius of the CRZ shall be determined by multiplying the tree's diameter at breast height in inches by 18 (1.5 feet per inch DBH). See Figure 1 below.

Figure 1



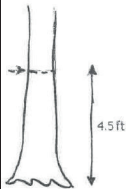
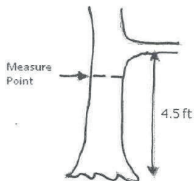
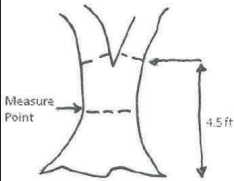
Example: A tree with a diameter at breast height of 20 inches shall have a CRZ of 360 inches or 30 feet (20" x 18"= 360")

Calculating the CRZ: First you need to calculate the tree's Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). DBH can be measured using a caliper measuring tool, or for trees that are too large, DBH can be measured by dividing the tree's circumference by pi (π). Diameter = circumference / π (3.14)

The Critical Root zone extends from the trunk of the tree to its drip line, or to a distance of 1.5 feet per inch DBH, whichever is greater. CRZ = Diameter * 1.5 feet (18 inches)

DIAMETER BREAST

HEIGHT (DBH): The diameter of the trunk of a tree 4.5 feet above the existing grade at the base of the tree. For trees that have branches or swelling at 4.5' above grade that interferes with measurement or for multi-stemmed trees refer to Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: HOW TO MEASURE DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)	
Standard Tree For those trees on a site that are at least 6 inches in diameter at a height of 4.5 feet above the existing grade at the base of the tree. For trees on a slope, measure on the uphill side of the tree.	 The diagram shows a single tree trunk. A horizontal dashed line indicates the measurement point at a height of 4.5 ft from the ground. A vertical double-headed arrow on the right side of the trunk indicates this height.
Tree has branches or swelling at 4.5' Measure DBH below the branch or swelling immediately below where branches cease to affect diameter of the stem. Record the height at which the diameter was measured.	 The diagram shows a tree trunk with a branch. A horizontal dashed line indicates the measurement point at a height of 4.5 ft from the ground, positioned below the branch. A vertical double-headed arrow on the right side of the trunk indicates this height. The label 'Measure Point' is placed to the left of the measurement line.
Multi-stemmed Trees If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4.5' above the existing grade, the DBH shall be considered to be the measurement taken at the narrowest point beneath the split.	 The diagram shows a tree trunk that splits into multiple stems below the 4.5 ft measurement height. A horizontal dashed line indicates the measurement point at a height of 4.5 ft from the ground, positioned at the narrowest point of the trunk below the split. A vertical double-headed arrow on the right side of the trunk indicates this height. The label 'Measure Point' is placed to the left of the measurement line.

HAZARDOUS TREE: A tree that is dead, diseased, injured and/or that is dangerously close to existing structures, utilities, streets, sidewalks or other existing improvements or is causing disruption of public utility service, or poses a threat to pedestrian or vehicular safety, or drainage or passage issues upon right-of-way and/or that is harming the health or condition of other trees on the same site.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Any tree that is listed on the most recent version of the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List as published by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Invasive species as defined in this Bylaw are not protected trees.

Here is link to Massachusetts prohibited plant list:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>

Up dates:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list-update>

Including but not limited to these examples:

Acer platanoides Norway Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore Maple

Ailanthus altissima Tree-of-Heaven *Phellodendron amurense* Amur Cork-tree *Robinia pseudoacacia*
Black Locust

OVERSTORY TREE: A tree that will generally reach a mature height of more than 40 feet.

PROTECTED TREES: Any tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of six-inches (6”) or greater of any one of the species listed in Table 2 below.

Removal of Protected Trees shall require a permit before being removed, encroached upon, or in some cases, pruned.

Invasive species as defined in this Bylaw are not protected trees.

Table 2: List of Tree Species that are Protected Trees	
Overstory Species	Understory Species
Atlantic White Cedar (<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>)	American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)
Black tupelo (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)
Gray Birch (<i>Betula populifolia</i>)	Eastern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)
River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	Shadbush (<i>Amelanchier Canadensis</i>)
White Ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)
Green Ash (<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>)	Cockspur Hawthorne (<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>)
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Sweetbay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)

Willow, various species (<i>Salix</i> spp.)	Ironwood (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)
Atlantic White Cedar (<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>)	American Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)
Pitch Pine (<i>Pinus rigida</i>)	
White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>) and other <i>Quercus</i> species	
Hackberry (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>)	
American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	
Tulip Poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	
White Spruce (<i>Picea glauca</i>)	
Black Spruce (<i>Picea mariana</i>)	
American basswood (<i>Tilia Americana</i>)	
Black Gum/Sourgum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	

REMOVE, REMOVED, REMOVAL or REMOVING:

The cutting down of any Protected Tree and all other acts that directly or indirectly result in the death of a Protected Tree prior to any building activity or within two years thereafter, as determined by a certified arborist based on arboricultural practices recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture, including, but not limited to, damaging, poisoning, excessive pruning or other direct or indirect actions.

Grading, grubbing, changing the contour within the CRZ is not permitted if the health of the protected tree is threatened.

Removal or altering the understory vegetation within the CRZ is not permitted if the health of the protected tree is threatened.

TREE BYLAW

REVENUE ACCOUNT: An account established by the Town Accountant to deposit mitigation funds collected under this chapter to be appropriated via a town meeting vote and expended for the purposes of maintaining, acquiring and/or installing trees to beautify the Town and preserve and enhance the character of the community. All sums deposited into the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account shall be used for the sole purpose of buying, planting and maintaining trees on public property in Harwich, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

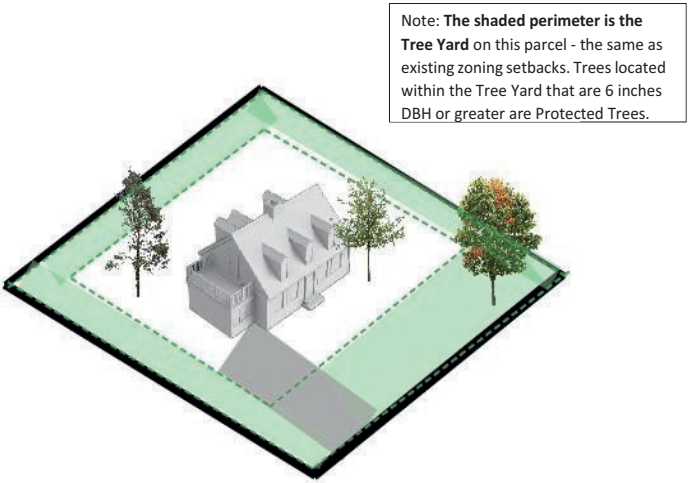
At least once a year the Town Accountant shall audit the receipts and expenses of the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account to ensure accuracy and propriety of its transactions.

The required dollar amount paid into the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account is determined by the written price quotes/estimates from a garden center/nursery for the purchase of trees and as well a price quote/estimate

from a qualified landscape professional for installation of the equivalent size of the Protected Tree(s) each stamped, dated and signed by a Certified Arborist;

TREE YARD: A defined area around the perimeter of a lot which is equal to the minimum setbacks front, side, and rear as defined in Town of Harwich Section 325 Attachment 2, Table 2, Area Regulations of the Harwich Zoning Bylaw.

Figure 2



TREE PERMIT: Formal permission granted to proceed with any building activity that affects a Protected Tree(s).

UNDERSTORY: A layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of a forest.

Removal or altering the understory vegetation within the CRZ is not permitted if the health of the protected tree is threatened.

§175-3 APPLICABILITY

All lots in the Town of Harwich are subject to the Tree Preservation Bylaw unless specifically exempted under **Section 3(A)** below and the project involves at least one building activities as defined in this chapter:

No person shall commence building activity on any lot without first obtaining a Tree Preservation Permit or a Certificate of Exemption from the Planning Department via the Town Planner or his/her designee.

Protected Trees removed within the past 12 months prior to an application for building activity are also subject to the requirements of the Tree Bylaw.

A. EXEMPTIONS

- (1) Properties that are pre-disturbed or previously developed may remove protected trees in the Tree Yard of their property without connection to a building activity. Applicability of this bylaw applies only to those Building Activities as defined.
- (2) Any lot or lots located within wetlands jurisdiction whereas any building activity that may impact protected trees will be subject to the review and approval of the Conservation Commission
- (3) Any building activity not within the definition of “building activity” (i.e., demolition of a shed that is less than 250 square feet).
- (4) If a Certificate of Exemption has been issued by the Planning Department, no Tree Preservation Permit shall be required. The granting of exemption shall be at the discretion of the Town Planner or his/her designee and shall be based on whether the building activity could potentially harm a Protected Tree. If the proposed building activity does not have the potential to harm a Protected Tree, the Town Planner or his/her designee shall issue a Certificate of Exemption.
- (5) Invasive species as defined in this Bylaw are not protected trees.
- (6) Dead, Diseased, or otherwise Hazardous Trees - If a Protected Tree is deemed to be imminently hazardous because it is dead, or infested with a disease or pest of a permanent nature or is an immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare or shall cause an immediate disruption of public services, the tree may be removed without delay. An oral authorization from the Town Planner or his/her or designee to remove the tree shall be permitted and followed up with a written report. In the event that the emergency condition does not allow time to seek prior authorization then the emergency removal of the tree shall proceed with notification to the Town Planner sent by email or U.S. mail within 24 hours of said removal.
- (7) Pruning: A tree permit is not required for pruning of Protected Trees. However, excessive pruning may constitute tree removal.
- (8) Any building activity conducted by the Town or on behalf of the Town of Harwich.

Waiver: During a period of a bona fide emergency declaration resultant of a significant weather event and/or natural disaster by local or other Act of God, state and/or federal authorities, requirements of this Bylaw shall be waived.

§175-4 IDENTIFYING PROTECTED TREES

Any tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 6” or greater and within the Tree Yard is considered to be a Protected Tree. Any Protected Trees located within the Tree Yard are to be adequately protected. Any Protected Trees located in the Tree Yard proposed for removal shall require adequate mitigation plantings and/or payment to the Harwich Tree Bylaw Revenue Account.

Protected Trees removed within the past 12 months prior to an application for any of the projects are also subject to the requirements of the Tree Bylaw.

§175-5 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TREE PROTECTION AND MITIGATION PLAN

The applicant pays for a registered land surveyor to prepare a tree protection or mitigation plan. The applicant pays for the services of a certified arborist. An approved Tree Protection and Mitigation Plan is required before commencement of any applicable building activity. The Tree Protection and Mitigation Plan is intended to define the Tree Yard and the location(s) of Protected Trees within it and define how the method with which the property owner intends on mitigating for any Protected Trees that are proposed for removal. This Plan may be part of a landscape plan or a separate plan.

All submitted plans must be drawn to a uniform scale (preferably 1"= 10', 1"=20', or 1"=30') and shall be a minimum size of 11" x 17" (preferred) and a maximum size of 24" x 36", with 3/4" borders. Font sizes on plans should be no smaller than 1/8". All Tree Protection and Mitigation Plans shall be prepared, stamped, dated and signed by a Registered Land Surveyor. If a plan is submitted by a Registered Landscape Architect, the plan must also be stamped by a Registered Land Surveyor.

At a minimum, the Tree Protection and Mitigation Plan shall include the following elements:

- a) Boundaries of the subject property, including all property lines, easements, and right-of-way of public and private ways;
- b) The location of all existing buildings, driveways, retaining walls and other improvements, with an indication of those features to be retained or removed/demolished;
- c) The location of all planned buildings, driveways, retaining walls and other improvements;
- d) The location of the Tree Yard for projects located in the subject zoning district; and
- e) The location, height, DBH, and species of all existing Protected Trees and all Protected Trees that were removed within 12 months prior to application with an indication of those Protected Trees to be removed and those to be retained, if applicable.

§175-6 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

A. If Protected Trees are intended to be preserved, protected, and retained, the following elements must be added to the Plan:

1. The Critical Root Zone and Drip line shall be shown for all Protected Trees to be retained.

(See Figure 1 above in definitions section).

2. Submitted plans shall specify the tree protection measures to be installed around the Critical Root Zone.
3. Prior to the commencement of construction, written documentation prepared, stamped, dated and signed by a Certified Arborist must be submitted to the Planning Department confirming the protection measures have been installed correctly and in accordance with any approved plans.
4. Projects that encroach within the CRZ require a maintenance plan which shall be submitted for such trees, prepared, stamped, dated and signed by a Certified Arborist; at a minimum, the maintenance plan shall identify the course of action that will be taken to maintain the tree in good health for a period of no less than 24 months from the date of Final Inspection or issuance of Certificate of Occupancy.

5. Grading, grubbing, changing the contour within the CRZ is not permitted if the health of the protected tree is threatened.
6. Removal or altering the understory vegetation within the CRZ is not permitted if the health of the protected tree is threatened.

B. If Protected Trees are intended to be removed and compensated for on-site by replanting new trees, the following additional elements must be added to the Plan:

1. The location, DBH, species, and planting schedule of trees to be replanted to mitigate the removal of a Protected Tree(s). New trees of one-half (0.5) inch DBH is needed to mitigate for each one-inch at breast height of Protected Trees proposed for removal. **Example:** The removal of a 20 inch DBH Protected Tree shall require 5, 2 inch DBH replacements.
2. Each new tree must have a minimum DBH of 2 inches.
3. Replanting must be complete prior to Final Inspection or the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
4. Applicants have the ability to plant on land abutting the applicant's land, with the express written approval of the abutting property owner.
5. Over story Tree species, if removed, must be replaced with an Overstory Tree species.
6. Invasive tree species as defined in this Bylaw shall not be replanted to mitigate the removal of a Protected Tree and no invasive species will be accepted as mitigation toward the removal of a Protected Tree.

C. If Protected Tree removal is permitted but replanting trees as defined above is not the preference of the property owner, then mitigation may be effected through contribution into the Town of Harwich Tree Bylaw Revenue Account as follows:

1. The Town Planner or his/her designee shall determine the amount of the contribution based upon the cost to purchase and install trees. An applicant who has been granted a Tree Permit may choose, in lieu of replanting onsite, to make a contribution to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account in an amount equal to planting replacement tree(s). And deposit such amount in the Tree Bylaw Revenue Accountant.

To establish the required dollar amount the applicant shall provide to the Board written price quotes/estimates from

- a. a garden center/nursery or from whomever they purchase the trees, and
- b. as well as from a qualified landscape professional the price for installation and planting of the replacement trees.

each stamped, dated and signed by a Certified Arborist;

§175-7 COMBINATION OF OPTIONS

Any combination of Tree Retention, Tree Replanting or Tree Removal with contribution to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account can be used. Tree mitigation for those trees removed must be clearly identified either on the

submitted plan or in a written document accounting for each DBH of Protected Trees removed and the mitigation proposed. This is not required for tree retention of all trees in the Tree Yard.

§175-8 ADMINISTRATION OF BYLAW

The Town Planner or his/her designee shall administer, implement and enforce this Bylaw and any rules and regulations adopted thereunder. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the Town Planner may be delegated to its agents under the Board's direct supervision.

§175-9 AUTHORITY

This Bylaw is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution and the Home Rule statutes.

§175-10 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Planning Board may promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Bylaw. Such rules may prescribe the size, form, contents, style and number of copies of plans for determining final compliance with these regulations. The adoption or amendment of rules and regulations shall be after a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed or amended rules and regulations. The public hearing shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general local circulation, at least 14 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

§175-11 NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be notified by the Town Planner or his/her designee of the specific violation by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery. The notice shall set forth the nature of the violation and the date by which the Protected Tree(s) is to be mitigated, by planting a replacement tree(s) or payment to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account, for purposes of computing the "per diem" violation rule. Any notice of violation shall also be transmitted to the Harwich Building Commissioner.

§175-12 STOP WORK ORDER

Upon notice from the Town Planner or his/her designee that work on any lot on which a Protected Tree is located is being performed contrary to the provisions of this Bylaw, a written Stop Work Order shall be given to the owner or agent or the person performing work on the property by the Building Commissioner. The Stop Work Order shall state the conditions under which work will be permitted to resume. Upon receipt of the Stop Work Order all work on the subject property that might affect any Protected Trees must cease while a stop work order is pending.

A person, having been served with a stop work order, may be directed to perform work on the said Protected Tree property to remove a violation or unsafe condition.

§175-13 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

The Town Planner or his/her designee may suspend or revoke the applicant's Tree Permit at any time if the permit holder has failed to comply with either the Bylaw or the conditions of the permit. Notice may be made via certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or hand delivered. The notice must provide the applicant an opportunity to correct the non-compliance. This may include remediation or other requirements identified by the Town Planner or authorized monitoring agent, such as the Code Compliance Inspector. Once the project is returned to compliance or remediation completed, if practicable, the applicant may apply for a renewal of the tree permit.

§175-14 IRREPARABLE DAMAGE

If the Town Planner or his/her designee determines that the applicant damaged a tree approved for Retention and Protection during construction to an extent that may significantly compromise its survival and future health, the Town Planner or his/her designee may require the applicant to provide mitigation per the terms of the Bylaw.

§175-15 NON-CRIMINAL FINES

If the Town Planner or authorized monitoring agent, such as the Code Compliance Inspector, identifies any issues of non-compliance, fines will accrue per the Bylaw if not corrected within 30 days. Each consecutive day the non-compliance continues is considered a separate offense.

§175-16 FINES AND PENALTIES

The following actions shall cause the Planning Department to issue a fine to the applicant:

- A. A Protected Tree has been removed without a Tree Permit: The fine shall be in addition to the required payment for the replacement of the tree(s).
- B. Failure to replace trees or make payment to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account as required: Each failure to replace a tree or make a payment to the Tree Bylaw Revenue Account constitutes a separate violation of this Bylaw, subject to a fine. Each day such violation continues after the compliance date specified by the Planning Department in its notice of violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- C. Failure to comply with a condition of the Tree Permit: Each instance of failure to comply with a condition in the Tree Permit shall constitute a violation of this Bylaw which shall be subject to a fine. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- D. Failure to comply with a condition in a Stop Work Order: Each instance of failure to comply with a condition in a Stop Work Order shall constitute a violation of this Bylaw which shall be subject to a fine. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- E. Fines for the above violations are as follows: First offense = \$100 per day

Second Offense = \$200 per day

Third Offense = \$300 per day

- F. Fines assessed pursuant to this Section shall be enforced and collected in accordance with applicable provisions of law, including the provisions of G.L. c.40, §21D providing for noncriminal disposition of bylaw violations, as implemented by Article III, §1-3 of these Bylaws

§175-17 SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Bylaw are severable. If any section, provision or portion of this Bylaw is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the remaining provisions of this Bylaw shall continue to be valid.

§175-18 CONFLICT OF LAWS

This Bylaw shall not apply to any public shade tree as that term is defined by the General Laws, Chapter 87, and to the extent that any provision hereof conflicts with said Chapter 87, such provision shall not be valid.

Nothing herein is intended to conflict with existing special-permit procedures and to the extent than any provision hereof conflicts with said special-permit procedures, such provision shall not be valid.

§175-19 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS

Complying with the terms of this Bylaw shall not relieve the owner of the subject property from complying with any other pertinent regulation, including but not limited to all state and local wetlands-protection regulations.

§175-20 ENFORCEMENT

The Town Planner or his/her designee is hereby authorized to enforce all provisions of the Harwich Preservation Tree Bylaw and may designate monitoring and enforcement agents to include but not be limited to the Code Compliance Officer, the Town Planner, the Conservation Agent, Building Inspector/Commissioner.

§175-21 APPEALS

Any person who has been aggrieved by refusal, order, or decision of the Town Planner or his/her designee, may appeal to the Planning Board within 20 days from the date of such refusal, order or decision.

EXPLANATION: This Article would establish a program intended to incentivize the protection of certain trees on lots within the Town of Harwich. It would require, prior to any building activities as defined in this Article, the submission of an application and plan to the Planning Department that identifies trees that qualify as “Protected Trees,” within the lot perimeter setback area of the lot, defined as the “Tree Lot.” This Article does not prohibit any property owner from removing any tree, protected or not, from their property, however if a protected tree is proposed for removal it will require either a payment into a Tree Bylaw Revenue Account or replacement of the protected tree with a suitable species in accordance with this Article. This would eliminate the ability for property owners to “clear-cut” their lot prior to a building activity. This Article does not restrict cutting or removal of trees outside of the “Tree Lot.” Nor does this Article prevent an owner from cutting or removing trees if there is no building or construction activities. The Article is intended to encourage the preservation of existing trees for their environmental benefits and positive impact on the character of the community.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINATELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 7 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres,

Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Patrick Otton, Lead Petitioner) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion did not carry.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –ESTABLISH A HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

ARTICLE 39: (Non-Binding Resolution) RESOLVED...THAT the Town Meeting endorses the proposed action by the Historical District Historical Commission to annually present a “HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD”, a commemorative plaque, to a Town property owner, contractor, architect or other professional who efforts exemplify a tangible commitment to historical preservation of an historic structure. The criteria and selection of the awarding process to be decided by the Commission. This award will publicly acknowledge the extraordinary effort and creativeness involved in the retention and use rather than the demolition of a historic Town property. Estimated Cost: \$0

Explanation:

The Award program is intended to further the effort to promote Historic Preservation of Town structures by recognizing and rewarding, with this public acknowledgement individuals who demonstrate an exceptional respect, creative use of and continued appreciation for the Town's rich historical structures.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 39 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Moderator Michael Ford, Esq., stepped down as Moderator for the discussion and vote on Article 40. Moderator Ford took a vote on the appointment of Richard Houston as substitute Moderator for Article 40. The vote carried in support of Richard Houston serving as Moderator for this article.

PETITIONED ARTICLE –RESCIND ARTICLE 2 FROM THE 2022 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authority it granted the Select Board for any actions regarding Article 2 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting in relation to Assessor's Map 10, Parcel G2 located at 62 Rt. 28 and to act fully thereon. By Petition

Explanation: This article seeks to revoke authorization granted the Select Board by the passage of Article 2 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting to acquire a parcel of land presently owned by the First Baptist Church located at 62 Route 28, and then to dispose of the property to a developer who had expressed an interest in constructing approximately 14 units of work force housing within the existing Church building. The Church was identified as an historic building in West Harwich, albeit in a deteriorated condition. The Town had intended to retain an historic preservation restriction and a housing restriction to ensure that the historic character of the Church building was preserved and also to ensure that the use of the property was restricted to workforce housing. At this time, the developer identified through a Town-issued RFP is seeking approval for a full tear-down, so the initial intent to preserve the historic exterior will not be met as a condition. Nor has any legal restriction been placed on the property regarding its use as workforce housing. Given the lack of those two elements, there is no identifiable public purpose for the use of eminent domain.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 3 (Two): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 2 (Two): Julie Kavanagh, Donald Howell

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Louis Urbano, Lead Petitioner) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as an advisory article only.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

RESCIND ARTICLE 19 AS VOTED AT THE 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting under Article 19 to rescind the borrowing in the amount of \$750,000.00 in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board and the Board of Water/Wastewater Commission.

Explanation: Article 19 of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting authorized the borrowing of \$750,000.00 for the painting of the Pleasant Lake Avenue Water Tank. Article 42 of this Town Meeting seeks to transfer \$600,000.00 from Water Retained Earnings for the water tank painting thereby eliminating the need to borrow funds for the project.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark

Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that article 41 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

TRANSFER FUNDS FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS TO FUND THE PLEASANT LAKE AVENUE WATER TANK PAINT PROJECT

ARTICLE 42: To will vote to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for the Pleasant Lake Avenue water tank paint project, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners. Estimated cost: \$600,000.00.

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to transfer \$600,000.00 from Water Retained Earnings for the purposes of painting of the Pleasant Lake Avenue Water Tank as originally outlined in the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Article 19.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted and that \$600,000 be transferred to the Pleasant Lake Avenue Tank Project

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED.
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that Article 42 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$600,000 be transferred from Water Retained Earnings for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

FUND SITE RESEARCH FOR TREATED WASTEWATER EFFLUENT RECHARGE

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to obtain engineering services needed to fund work related to identifying sites for treated wastewater effluent recharge, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$150,000.

EXPLANATION:

In order for the Town to comply with recent state regulations regarding meeting nitrogen limits on Town watersheds, properties within the Town of Harwich will need to be identified for treated wastewater effluent recharge including, but not limited to, evaluation, modeling and field work. This is one of the primary recommendations of the updated Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Funding is from Special Purpose Stabilization Fund - Wastewater.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Zero): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 43 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and that \$150,000 be transferred from the Wastewater Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

**TRANSFER FROM THE SPECIAL PURPOSE STABILIZATION FUND – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO
THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND**

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Affordable Housing to the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust Fund or take any other action related thereto. Amount requested: \$1,500,000

By request of the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust and Select Board

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-6, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 3 (Three): Julie Kavanagh, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell

Nays: 2 (Two): Michael MacAskill, Peter Piekarski

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 6 (Six): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 44 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and the sum of \$1,500,000 be transferred from the Affordable Housing Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Moderator Michael Ford, Esq., stepped down as Moderator for the discussion and vote on Article 45. Moderator Ford took a vote on the appointment of William Crowell as temporary Moderator for Article 45. There was a unanimous vote in support of William Crowell serving as Moderator for this article.

FUND ELECTRONIC VOTING AT TOWN MEETINGS

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to provide for the option of electronic voting at Town Meetings, or take any other action related thereto. By request of the Town Clerk and the Town Moderator. Estimated Cost: \$35,000

Explanation: Funding for this article would come from Free Cash.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$35,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose, as requested by voters at previous Town meetings.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Julie Kavanagh, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 1 (One): Michael MacAskill

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 45 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and the sum of \$35,000 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

FUND PRIOR YEAR'S UNPAID BILLS

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to pay unpaid bills of prior years as provided for in M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 64, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Estimated cost: \$1,045.00 Requires a 4/5 majority vote.

Accounting Department	Tyler Technologies	Financial Management System Support	\$400
Accounting Department	Boston Globe	Bill Printing Expense	\$240
Public Safety	Open Cape	Internet Service Expense	\$405
Information Technology	WB Mason	Toner	\$205.91
		Total:	\$1,250.91

Explanation: Tyler Technologies is the software provider for Munis, the accounting software the Town requires to operate. Boston Globe provided bill printing services that were provided to the Treasurer's Office. Open Cape is an internet service provider, and the town currently uses Comcast, therefore Open Cape was a redundant service provider. WB Mason is a regular supplier of office supplies for all the Town of Harwich departments.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 46 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant, and the sum of \$1,250.91 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion required a 4/5 vote to pass; the motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to supplement the Massachusetts Cultural Council annual allocation for community grant awards to artists, performers, and interpretive scientists who bring events and programs to local venues which enhance the cultural experience of Harwich citizens of all ages; and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Estimated Cost: \$4,000.00

Explanation: This is a customary article that provides supplemental support for local cultural council grants in addition to funds provided through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Funding is from available free cash.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$4,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose for this customary article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres,

Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 47 be accepted and adopted, and that \$4,000 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE CHASE LIBRARY AND HARWICH PORT LIBRARY

ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to help defray the expenses of the Chase Library and the Harwich Port Library; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Chase Library and Harwich Port Library Trustee, and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Estimated cost: \$20,000.00

Explanation: This is a customary article wherein the Town of Harwich provides money in support of our two, private community libraries. These two longstanding institutions are a mainstay of our community to the visiting public in the summer months. The funds provided help ensure continuing operations as in years past. Funding is from available free cash.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$20,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose for this customary article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-6, NO-0, ABSTAINED-1**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 6 (Six): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Abstained: 1 (One): Daniel Tworek

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 48 be accepted and adopted, and that \$20,000 be transferred from Free Cash for this purpose.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT M.G.L. CHAPTER 59, §50 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §50, effective Fiscal Year 2026, allowing the Town to enter into an Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Program and to act fully thereon.

By the request of the Board of Assessors. Estimated cost: \$30,000

Explanation: The Board of Assessors would like to advocate for taxpayers who rent year-round at an affordable rate in the Town of Harwich. This exemption will provide a tax credit of \$1,000-\$1,500 to the property of residential unit owners who rent their units to income-qualifying persons at affordable rates on a year-round, annual basis. There will be an annual cap of 30 exemptions per Fiscal Year.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §50, effective Fiscal Year 2026, allowing the Town to enter an Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED

VOTE: YES-7, NO-0

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Zero): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that Article 49 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

**M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5, CLAUSE 22 I & J – SECTION 23: PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, THE
HERO ACT**

ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an increase in the amount of the tax exemption granted to disabled veterans on their domiciles under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E and 22F annually by a cost-of-living adjustment determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) based on the consumer price index (CPI). To be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

In addition to see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an additional exemption up to 100% of the amount of the tax exemption granted to disabled veterans on their domiciles under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E and 22F by 100% the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions of in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Upon acceptance by the Town, the amount of the additional exemption shall continue until amended by the legislative body of the Town. Both Clauses would run together. For example, if a Clause 22 recipient will receive a \$400 exemption and the COLA increase is 5%, the exemption amount would increase to \$420 and then we would apply 22J for 100%, making the total exemption \$840 for the year. Said change to take effect FY 2026 and act fully thereon.

By Request of the Board of Assessors and the Harwich Veteran's Agent. Estimated Cost: \$100,000 and it is to be funded by the Overlay Account

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

**M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5, CLAUSE 56 – ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES – PROPERTY;
EXEMPTIONS**

ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote to reaffirm and extend MGL Chapter 59, §5, Clause 56. Upon acceptance of this section by the Town, the Board of Assessors may grant, real and personal property tax abatement up to 100% of the total tax assessed to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and to Reservists on active duty in foreign countries for the fiscal year they performed such service subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the Board of Assessors. The authority to grant abatements under this section shall expire after 2 years of acceptance unless extended by a vote of the city or town. Said change to take effect FY 2026 and act fully thereon. By request of the Harwich Veteran's Agent and Board of Assessors. Estimated Cost: \$10,000

Explanation: This local option for the National Guard and Reservists must be renewed every two (2) years. This article is funded by the Overlay.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH STREET, MAIN STREET AND SISSON ROAD –
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT

ARTICLE 52: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, permanent and/or temporary easements on the parcels of land referenced below for public way purposes, including, without limitation, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of rights of way, driveways, sidewalks, ramps, parking areas, utilities and/or traffic control devices, and related improvements, to be undertaken in connection with the Harwich Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project, and for all uses and purposes incidental thereto, said easements to be in, on and under the parcels of land on or near South Street, Main Street and Sisson Road and shown on a plan entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of South Street, Main Street and Sisson Road in the Town of Harwich Barnstable County,” dated December 9, 2024, prepared by Pare, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, as the same may be amended from time to time, and, further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, accept gifts and/or borrow a sum of money for the foregoing purposes and any costs related thereto, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes set forth herein, and, further, to dedicate to, and transfer to the Select Board for public way purposes, including, without limitation, the purpose of constructing and maintaining sidewalks, ramps and other Project improvements, those portions of the properties owned by the Town of Harwich shown on the aforesaid plan; and to act fully thereon.

By the request of the Select Board. Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Explanation:

This article will allow the Select Board to secure the Right of Way (ROW) for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project that will upgrade the sidewalks on Main Street, Sisson Road and South Street around the Elementary School. The SRTS program is a healthy transportation initiative designed to encourage students to walk and bike to school safely. This \$2,197,621 project is completely funded with State and Federal funds with the Town being responsible to secure the ROW. Securing the ROW costs include appraisals, awards to property owners, certified mailings, legal filings and is proposed to be funded with Chapter 90 funds (road money from the State).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-5, NO-1**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Scott Norum

Nays: 1 (One): Robert McCready

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move to accept and adopt this article as printed in the warrant, and the sum of \$200,000 be transferred from available Chapter 90 funds for this purpose.
Duly seconded

Action: The motion required a 2/3 vote to pass; the motion carried unanimously.

AMEND GENERAL BYLAW CHAPTER 8 DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

ARTICLE 53: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Harwich General Bylaws Chapter 8 of the Town Code, as set forth below, with strikethrough text to be deleted:

§ 8-1 Funds Established

Revolving Fund	Authorize to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund
Golf Infrastructure Fund	Town Administrator or designee	Surcharge on all green fees and cart fees as well as a portion of golf membership fees	CVGC infrastructure, including Club House facilities, maintenance facilities

and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Explanation: The Golf Infrastructure Fund is not legally a revolving fund but a receipts reserved fund and as such should not be included in the list of revolving funds. The Golf Infrastructure Fund is governed by state law, MGL, c.40, section 5F.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Donald Howell, Jeffrey Handler, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

ARTICLE 54: To see if the Town will vote to set spending limits for various revolving funds that have been authorized pursuant to Section 8.2 of the Town Code; and to act fully thereon. By request of the Town Administrator.

<i><u>Revolving Fund</u></i>	<i><u>FY 2026 Spending Limit</u></i>	<i><u>Disposition of FY25 Fund balance</u></i>
<i>Golf Pro Shop and Restaurant Lease Revenue</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Golf Infrastructure fund</i>	<i>\$140,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Council on Aging</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Community Center</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Recreation</i>	<i>\$175,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Albro House</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Wetlands</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>204 Sisson Road Municipal Building</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Sidewalks</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>
<i>Tax Title Collection</i>	<i>\$36,000</i>	<i>Available for expenditure</i>

Explanation: This is a customary article required by state statute. The spending limits are the same as was voted for Fiscal Year 2025.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee makes no recommendation pending further information (NRPF). The Finance Committee recommends no recommendation pending further information when, at the time of the printing of the warrant it had insufficient or incomplete information to make an informed recommendation. It does not imply a negative view, only an incomplete understanding of the article at the print deadline. The Finance Committee will make its final recommendation at the Town Meeting after having received further information. The Finance Committee looks forward to a comprehensive review of all our revolving accounts. As stated in the Finance Committee Report on the finances of 204 Sisson Road, there is incomplete data to support the stated account balance. This needs to be corrected in the year ahead.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS NO RECOMMENDATION PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION.
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 3 (Three): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler

Nays: 2 (Two): Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Finance Committee:

No recommendation pending further information:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Jeffrey Handler, Chair – Select Board) I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Joseph Powers, Town Administrator, gave a year-to-date report including current fund balances for all of the Town's Revolving Funds.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

AMEND GENERAL BYLAW CHAPTER 131 RELATIVE TO DEMOLITION DELAY

ARTICLE 55: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Harwich General Bylaws Chapter 131 of the Town Code, as set forth below, with strikethrough text to be deleted and bold, underlined text to be inserted:

§ 131-11. Determination of significance; demolition delay.

If after hearing the Commission determines that the building in question is historically significant and the proposed work would destroy or substantially diminish its historic value, it is empowered to impose a demolition delay of up to ~~one year~~ **eighteen months** from the date of said determination and may schedule additional hearings during any such delay period to allow an opportunity to develop alternatives to demolition and the ability to reduce or rescind the delay period if such alternatives are considered not feasible.

and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Explanation: The Historic District/Historical Commission is seeking to change the demolition delay timeframe from twelve (12) months to eighteen (18) months thereby allowing them additional time prior to any planned demolition

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-7, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 4 (Four): Julie Kavanagh, Donald Howell, Jeffrey Handler and Peter Piekarski

Nays: 1 (One): Michael MacAskill

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 7 (Seven): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero):

Motion (Jeffrey Handler, Chair – Select Board): I move that this article be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried.

AMEND ZONING BYLAWS REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU)

ARTICLE 56: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Use Chart, Paragraph I, Lines 1b Accessory Apartment (by Special Permit) between 901 – 1,000 square feet and 10 to allow (by right) Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units in Zoning Districts RH-2 and RH-3 (all districts except CH-2 and IL). And further to see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Section 325-2 by deleting the definition of DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY WITH ACCESSORY APARTMENT as shown below in strike-through.

~~DWELLING, SINGLE FAMILY WITH ACCESSORY APARTMENT A single family dwelling containing a principal dwelling unit and a separate accessory apartment, either attached or detached. The apartment shall contain a kitchen and bathroom which are separate from and not used in common with the principal dwelling unit.~~

And further to see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, by deleting Section 325-51.I.1 in its entirety as shown below in strikethrough.

~~I.1. Granting of a special permit for a dwelling with an accessory apartment shall be conditioned upon the owner maintaining occupancy of one of the units. Prior to the issuance of the special permit, a certificate in the form of a notarized affidavit to verify that the owner is or shall be in residence in one of the units shall be submitted to the special permit granting authority and, thereafter, every two years such notarized affidavit shall be submitted to the Building Inspector by January 31. Failure to comply with these provisions or termination of occupancy by the owner shall result in the special permit becoming null and void and within 12 months thereafter one kitchen unit shall be removed and the property returned to a single family dwelling.~~

And further to see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, by deleting Section 325-94(A)(1) in its entirety as shown below in strikethrough:

~~(1) Single family dwelling with accessory apartment. For existing lots lawfully laid out by plan or deed prior to the effective date of this article the minimum required lot size within the Six Ponds District shall be 60,000 square feet for any single family dwelling with accessory apartment. For all lots created after the effective date~~

of this article the minimum required lot size within the Six Ponds District shall be 100,000 square feet for any single-family dwelling with accessory apartment.

And further to see if the Town will vote to amend Section 325-14.T as shown with deletions in strikethrough and additions underlined as follows:

(T) Accessory Dwelling Units.

(1) Purpose. The intent of permitting accessory dwelling units is to:

(a) Increase the number of small dwelling units available for rent in Town;

(b) Increase the range of choice of housing accommodations;

(c) Encourage greater diversity of the demographic population with particular attention to young adults and senior citizens; and

(d) Encourage a more economic and energy-efficient use of the Town's housing supply while maintaining the appearance and character of the Town's single-family neighborhoods.

(2) Definitions:

ACCESSORY APARTMENT, a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is between 901 to 1,000 square feet in gross floor area.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT, a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger in gross floor area than 1/2 the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller; and (iii) is subject to such additional restrictions as may be imposed by a municipality, including, but not limited to, additional size restrictions and restrictions or prohibitions on short term rental, as defined in section 1 of chapter 64G; provided, however, that no municipality shall unreasonably restrict the creation or rental of an accessory dwelling unit that is not a short-term rental.

GROSS FLOOR AREA (GFA). The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating buildings or dwelling units but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple Principal Dwellings on the Lot, the GFA of the largest Principal Dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of a Protected Use ADU.

PRINCIPAL DWELLING. A structure, regardless of whether it, or the Lot it is situated on, conforms to Zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is, or will be, located on the same Lot as a Protected Use ADU.

PROTECTED USE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT.

An attached or detached ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a Lot in a Single-family Residential Zoning District and is protected by M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3, provided that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to Zoning shall still qualify as a Protected Use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition.

OWNER One or more individuals holding title to the property.

SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT. Any Zoning District where Single-family Residential Dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any Zoning District where Single-family Residential Dwellings are allowed as-of-right or by Special Permit.

(3) Criteria. A Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit is allowable in a single-family residential zoning district, either attached or detached, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied:

- (a) Only one Protected Use Accessory dwelling unit is permitted on the same lot as a principal dwelling.
- (b) The Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit may not be held in separate ownership from the Principal Dwelling.
- (c) The Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be larger in gross floor area than 1/2 the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.
- (d) One off-street parking space shall be provided for the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit.

(e) The Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be designed so that, to the degree reasonably feasible, the appearance of the property remains that of a single-family property with matching materials, colors, window styles and roof design for one structure, if the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit is attached, or for both structures, if the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit is detached.

(f) The Principal Dwelling and Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit shall meet all Board of Health wastewater treatment requirements for the combined number of bedrooms.

(g) The addition of a Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not exceed the building or site coverage in the applicable Zoning District.

(h) If an addition to the Principal Dwelling is to be constructed for the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit, the addition shall comply all with setback requirements in the applicable Zoning District.

(i) If the Principal Dwelling or accessory structure to which a Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit will be added is a pre-existing nonconforming structure or use or is located on a nonconforming lot, and the alteration or extension to add the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit will increase such nonconformity, said extension or alteration shall be subject to G.L. c. 40A, Section 6 and Section 325-54 of the Zoning Bylaw, provided however, that a special permit shall not be required but a majority of the Board of Appeals shall make a finding that the proposed alteration is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing structure or use.

(k) Upon receipt of a complete building permit application for a change or expansion of use for construction of the Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit, the Building Commissioner shall determine compliance with the criteria listed above.

(4) If the Building Commissioner makes a determination that the owner is not in compliance with the criteria listed above, after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the owner may be subject to a zoning violation.

(5). Accessory Apartment: An Accessory Apartment unit that is between 901 s.f. and 1,000 s.f. is allowable by special permit from the Planning Board within a single-family dwelling, either attached or detached, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied:

(a) Only one accessory apartment is permitted on the same lot as a principal dwelling unit.

(b) The accessory apartment may not be held in separate ownership from the principal use.

(c) Only one of the principal dwelling or accessory apartment may be rented at any given time and if rented, shall be rented for a term of no less than six consecutive months. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the owner shall submit a notarized affidavit that states that the owner is or will be in residence in one of the units.

(d) The accessory apartment shall not exceed 1,000 square feet of gross floor area.

(e) The accessory apartment shall have not more than two bedrooms.

(f)

At least one off-street parking space shall be provided for the accessory apartment.^{III}

(g)

The accessory apartment shall be designed so that, to the degree reasonably feasible, the appearance of the property remains that of a single-family property with matching materials, colors, window styles and roof design for one structure, if the apartment is attached, or for both structures, if the apartment is detached.

(h)

The principal dwelling unit and accessory apartment shall meet all Board of Health wastewater treatment requirements for the combined number of bedrooms.

(i)

The proposed use shall not exceed the building or site coverage in the applicable Zoning District.

(j)

If an addition to the principal dwelling is to be constructed for the accessory apartment, the addition shall comply all with setback requirements in the applicable Zoning District.

(k)

The Zoning Board of Appeals may grant a special permit for preexisting nonconforming principal dwellings and residential accessory structures that do not comply with the setback or lot coverage requirements in the applicable Zoning District.

(l)

Upon receipt of a complete building permit application for a change or expansion of use for construction of the accessory apartment, the Building Commissioner shall determine compliance with the criteria listed above.

(4)

If the Building Commissioner makes a determination that the owner is not in compliance with the criteria listed above, after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the owner may be subject to a zoning violation.

And to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board.

Explanation: The enactment of the Affordable Homes Act in February necessitates the town updating references to accessory dwelling units (ADU) within our existing zoning bylaws.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED
VOTE: YES-6, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To indefinitely postpone:

Yeas: 6 (Six): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion (Jeffrey Handler, Chair – Select Board): I move to positively recommend the bylaw but, due to additional revisions, at this time, the Planning Board is recommending that Article 56 be indefinitely postponed.

Duly seconded

Moderator Ford explained that the effect of this motion would be to refer the bylaw back to the Planning Board for additional review.

Duncan Berry, Planning Board Chair, reported that the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the bylaw be referred back to the Planning Board for continued review.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Appointments

As this time, Moderator Michael D. Ford, esq., made the following appointments under Article 1:

Finance Committee:

Michele Gallucci reappointed to a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2028
Robert MacCready reappointed to a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2028

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District Committee:

Robert J. Furtado reappointed to a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2028

Caleb Chase Trust Fund:

Robert Doane reappointed to a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2028

HERRING FISHERIES

ARTICLE 57: To see what action the Town will take in regard to the Herring Fisheries; and to act fully thereon. By request of the Select Board. Estimated cost: \$0.

Explanation: This is a customary article that has appeared at the Town Meeting for several years if not decades.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS ARTICLE BE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED
VOTE: YES-8, NO-0**

ROLL CALL VOTES:

Select Board:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 5 (Five): Julie Kavanagh, Michael MacAskill, Jeffrey Handler, Donald Howell, Peter Piekarski

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Finance Committee:

To accept and adopt:

Yeas: 8 (Eight): Peter Hughes, Robert McCready, Mark Kelleher, Dana DeCosta, Daniel Tworek, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Scott Norum

Nays: 0 (Zero): None

Motion: (Peter Hughes, Chair – Finance Committee) I move that Article 57 be accepted and adopted as printed in the warrant.

Duly seconded

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Alan Hall made a motion to reconsider the action taken under Article 35, which was duly seconded.

Moderator Ford ruled that this motion was in order, as the meeting has not yet taken a vote to adjourn and Article 35 had been originally considered on the same night.

Action: The motion to reconsider required a 3/4 majority to pass; the Moderator ruled the vote did not get the necessary ¾ vote and is not reconsidered.

Adjournment

Peter Hughes made a motion that was duly seconded to adjourn the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk

Appendix A

Annual Town Election Warrant

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HARWICH
TOWN ELECTION WARRANT
MAY 20, 2025**

BARNSTABLE, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Harwich in said County,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Community Center Gymnasium, 100 Oak Street, in said Town on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. and CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

To choose on one (1) ballot the following Town Officers and Committees: Two (2) members of the Select Board for a three year term; One (1) Town Clerk for a three year term; One (1) member of the Monomoy Regional School Committee for a three year term; Two (2) Trustees of the Brooks Free Library for a three year term; One (1) Water/Wastewater Commissioner for a three year term; One (1) member of the Housing Authority for a five year term; Nine (9) members of Charter Commission.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

1. Shall the Town of Harwich approve the charter amendment proposed by Town Meeting summarized below?

Yes: _____ No: _____

SUMMARY:

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 43B, Section 10, allows Town Meeting to vote to amend the Town's Charter. On May 6, 2024, Harwich's Annual Town Meeting voted to amend the Town's Charter through Article 45 of the warrant. That Charter Amendment is conditioned upon the voters approving the same at this 2025 Annual Town Election.

The proposal will amend the Charter by deleting the remaining references to the word "Selectmen" in all instances in which it appears and replace it with the gender-neutral alternative of "Select Board."

The proposal also will strike the requirement that the annual town meeting be held on the first Monday in May and replace it with language to allow the annual town meeting to meet in the first week of May to adopt the annual operating and capital budgets, and to act on financial and other matters, with the meeting to be continued to other days until all warrant articles have been acted on.

The proposal will also authorize the Chair of the Select Board to delegate a member to sign the warrants for the payment of town funds in the absence of the Town Administrator, as opposed to the whole Select Board voting to delegate a member to do so at a public meeting, and requires that the Chair notify the Town Treasurer of the designated member.

The proposal also adds the position of "human resources" as one in which the Select Board shall appoint and remove and notes that the human resources position will report to both the Town Administrator and the Select Board.

Finally, the proposal will delete the section stating that the Town Administrator shall appoint the harbormaster and assistant harbormasters. It also adds two alternate members to the Board of Health, who will be appointed by the Select Board.

A "YES" vote on this Ballot Question would be in favor of approving these amendments to the Charter.

A "NO" vote on this Ballot Question would be opposed to approving these amendments to the Charter.

2. Shall a Commission be elected to revise the Charter of the Town of Harwich?

Yes: _____ No: _____

3. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay its allocable share of the bonds issued by the Monomoy Regional School District to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto?

Yes: _____ No: _____

4. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to acquire a new Pumper/Fire Engine and two (2) new ambulances?

Yes: _____ No: _____

5. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to construct sewers in the Great Sand Lakes area (Bucks Pond, John Joseph Pond, Kiddies Pond, Sand Lake) in Harwich, including any and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

Yes: _____ No: _____

6. **Public Opinion Advisory Question**

This question is non-binding

WHEREAS, Holtec, owner of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, is discharging untreated radioactively and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater into the atmosphere; and,

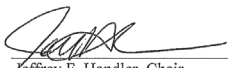
WHEREAS, these airborne pollutants are being carried by prevailing winds over and into Cape Cod Bay and our communities; and,

WHEREAS, just as liquid discharge into Cape Cod Bay is in violation the Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries Act and other state laws, this gaseous discharge also violates the Ocean Sanctuaries Act and other state laws Holtec agreed to follow; and, **WHEREAS**, these airborne pollutants threaten public and environmental health and safety-including the safety of Holtec's own workers- and our marine-based economy;

Therefore, shall the people of the Town of Harwich direct the town government to communicate with Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, the State Legislature, and all other relevant authorities to employ all means available to ensure that the law is enforced and to ensure further that Holtec immediately cease the gaseous discharge of the radioactively and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater at Pilgrim?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Given under our hands this 31st day of March, 2025.
(month)


Jeffrey F. Handler, Chair

Michael D. MacAskill, Vice Chair


Peter Piekarski, Clerk


Donald P. Howell


Julie E. Kavanagh

Select Board
Town of Harwich

Attest: _____
Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk

Posted by: _____, 2025.
Constable

Appendix B

Fiscal Year 2026
Operating Budget
Select Board Recommendations

**FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

	DEPT #	DEPT NAME	2024 VOTED	2025 VOTED	2026 SELECT BOARD	% Change 2025 to 2026
1	114	MODERATOR S&W	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
2	114	Total	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
3	122	SELECTMEN S&W	12,500	12,500	12,500	0.0%
4	122	SELECTMEN - EXP	8,750	8,750	8,750	0.0%
5	122	Total	21,250	21,250	21,250	0.0%
6	131	FINANCE COMMITTEE S&W	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
7	131	FINANCE COMMITTEE - EXP	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
8	131	FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	125,000	150.0%
9	131	Total	55,000	55,000	130,000	136.4%
10	135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT - SAL	282,824	293,694	302,249	2.9%
11	135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT - EXP	9,844	10,344	15,844	53.2%
12	135	Total	292,668	304,038	318,093	4.6%
13	136	AUDIT - EXP	49,000	49,000	49,000	0.0%
14	136	Total	49,000	49,000	49,000	0.0%
15	141	ASSESSORS - S&W	234,344	211,742	220,362	4.1%
16	141	ASSESSORS - EXP	147,080	162,102	164,052	1.2%
17	141	Total	381,424	373,844	384,414	2.8%
18	143	TOWN COLLECTIONS - S&W	14,000	14,000	16,500	17.9%
19	143	TOWN COLLECTIONS - EXP	9,190	9,190	7,375	-19.7%
20	143	Total	23,190	23,190	23,875	3.0%
21	144	POSTAGE	50,000	50,000	61,000	22.0%
22	144	Total	50,000	50,000	61,000	22.0%
23	145	TREASURER - S&W	307,839	284,321	282,065	-0.8%
24	145	TREASURER - EXP	93,173	85,653	98,830	15.4%
25	145	Total	401,012	369,974	380,895	3.0%
26	148	Medicare	260,000	260,000	290,000	11.5%
27	148	Vacation/Sick- Payout (Buy Back)	246,358	226,924	264,878	16.7%
28	148	Total	506,358	486,924	554,878	14.0%
29	149	ADMINISTRATION - S&W	421,593	584,980	1,276,539	118.2%
30	149	ADMINISTRATION - EXP	163,000	419,000	402,025	-4.1%
32	149	Total	584,593	1,003,980	1,678,564	67.2%
33	152	LEGAL SERVICES - EXP	185,000	185,000	203,500	10.0%
34	152	CLAIMS & SUITS	500	500	500	0.0%
35	152	Total	185,500	185,500	204,000	10.0%
36	155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - S&W	94,758	101,503	105,703	4.1%
37	155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - EXP	474,247	449,001	467,381	4.1%
38	155	Total	569,005	550,504	573,084	4.1%
39	156	THE HARWICH CHANNEL S&W	169,054	174,964	191,006	9.2%
40	156	THE HARWICH CHANNEL EXPENSES	48,400	52,000	52,000	0.0%
41	156	Total	217,454	226,964	243,006	7.1%
42	157	CONSTABLE S & W	700	700	700	0.0%
43	157	Total	700	700	700	0.0%
44	161	TOWN CLERK - S&W	249,927	295,813	260,123	-12.1%
45	161	TOWN CLERK - EXP	60,360	74,500	66,300	-11.0%

**FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

46	161 Total	310,287	370,313	326,423	-11.9%
47	171 CONSERVATION - S&W	197,658	214,177	209,743	-2.1%
48	171 CONSERVATION - EXP	11,532	12,282	14,726	19.9%
49	171 Total	209,190	226,459	224,469	-0.9%
50	173 HOUSING ADVOCATE - S&W	76,096	78,595	82,150	4.5%
51	173 HOUSING ADVOCATE - EXP	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
52	173 Total	78,596	81,095	84,650	4.4%
53	174 TOWN PLANNER - S&W	174,015	177,921	181,958	2.3%
54	174 TOWN PLANNER - EXP	6,581	6,581	6,581	0.0%
55	174 Total	180,596	184,502	188,539	2.2%
56	176 BOARD OF APPEALS - S&W	2,050	2,050	2,050	0.0%
57	176 BOARD OF APPEALS - EXP	4,256	4,256	4,256	0.0%
58	176 Total	6,306	6,306	6,306	0.0%
59	180 ALBRO HOUSE - EXP	5,000	5,250	5,250	0.0%
60	180 Total	5,000	5,250	5,250	0.0%
61	181 OLD RECR BUILDING - EXP	6,500	6,925	6,925	0.0%
62	181 Total	6,500	6,925	6,925	0.0%
65	183 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - EXP	5,898	5,898	6,303	6.9%
66	183 Total	5,898	5,898	6,303	6.9%
67	191 PUBLIC BUILDINGS REPAIRS	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
68	191 Total	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
69	192 TOWN/FIN COM REPORTS	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
70	192 Total	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
71	194 ADVERTISING	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
72	194 Total	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
73	210 POLICE - S&W	4,536,616	4,696,659	4,878,827	3.9%
74	210 POLICE - EXP	604,555	613,275	623,498	1.7%
75	210 Total	5,141,171	5,309,933	5,502,326	3.6%
76	220 FIRE - S&W	5,002,934	5,485,115	5,813,252	6.0%
77	220 FIRE - EXP	800,714	784,529	817,507	4.2%
78	220 Total	5,803,648	6,269,644	6,630,759	5.8%
79	241 BUILDING - S&W	596,356	658,882	677,369	2.8%
80	241 BUILDING - EXP	17,085	19,536	19,536	0.0%
81	241 Total	613,441	678,418	696,905	2.7%
82	244 SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES	13,725	14,500	15,332	5.7%
83	244 Total	13,725	14,500	15,332	5.7%
84	291 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - S&W	5,515	5,833	5,833	0.0%
85	291 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - EXP	8,500	8,500	8,500	0.0%
86	291 Total	14,015	14,333	14,333	0.0%
87	296 NATURAL RESOURCES S&W	124,320	101,607	106,354	4.7%
88	296 NATURAL RESOURCES - EXP	27,100	27,500	32,100	16.7%
89	296 Total	151,420	129,107	138,454	7.2%
90	297 PLEASANT BAY ALLIANCE	25,232	31,077	31,077	0.0%
91	297 Total	25,232	31,077	31,077	0.0%
92	411 TOWN ENGINEER - S&W	176,277	183,471	198,629	8.3%
93	411 TOWN ENGINEER - EXP	40,850	40,850	140,850	244.8%
94	411 Total	217,127	224,321	339,479	51.3%

**FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

95	421 HIGHWAY - S&W	3,067,180	3,136,327	3,190,454	1.7%
96	421 HIGHWAY - EXP	3,881,470	3,930,193	3,786,586	-3.7%
97	421 Total	6,948,650	7,066,520	6,977,041	-1.3%
98	423 SNOW/ICE - S&W	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.0%
99	423 SNOW/ICE - EXP	95,000	95,000	95,000	0.0%
100	423 Total	135,000	135,000	135,000	0.0%
101	424 STREET LIGHTS	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
102	424 Total	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
103	491 CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION - S&W	80,162	83,483	87,231	4.5%
104	491 CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION - EXP	5,108	5,771	5,909	2.4%
105	491 Total	85,270	89,254	93,140	4.4%
106	510 BOARD OF HEALTH - S&W	284,597	296,199	312,782	5.6%
107	510 BOARD OF HEALTH - EXP	18,425	19,025	21,548	13.3%
108	510 BOARD OF HEALTH-OPIOID ABATEMENT	102,328	0	0	
109	510 Total	405,350	315,224	334,330	6.1%
110	540 COMMUNITY CENTER - S&W	261,935	278,337	292,605	5.1%
111	540 COMMUNITY CENTER - EXP	158,152	207,648	189,444	-8.8%
112	540 Total	420,087	485,985	482,048	-0.8%
113	541 COUNCIL ON AGING - S&W	465,118	480,298	521,644	8.6%
114	541 COUNCIL ON AGING - EXP	118,045	124,281	130,151	4.7%
115	541 Total	583,163	604,579	651,795	7.8%
116	542 YOUTH COUNSELOR S&W	105,148	84,796	88,652	4.5%
117	542 YOUTH COUNSELOR EXPENS	4,430	4,630	4,730	2.2%
118	542 Total	109,578	89,426	93,382	4.4%
119	543 VETERANS EXPENSE/BENEFITS	145,805	152,327	156,900	3.0%
120	543 Total	145,805	152,327	156,900	3.0%
121	550 DISABILTY RIGHTS - EXP	500	500	500	0.0%
122	550 Total	500	500	500	0.0%
123	560 HUMAN SERVICES	83,250	83,250	83,250	0.0%
124	560 Total	83,250	83,250	83,250	0.0%
125	610 LIBRARY - S&W	819,809	853,139	886,875	4.0%
126	610 LIBRARY - EXP	300,400	319,258	342,720	7.3%
127	610 Total	1,120,209	1,172,397	1,229,595	4.9%
128	629 RECREATION SEASONAL S&W	298,919	298,919	304,897	2.0%
129	629 RECREATION & YOUTH S&W	279,271	296,816	299,702	1.0%
130	629 RECREATION & YOUTH EXP	59,225	71,349	72,807	2.0%
131	629 Total	637,415	667,084	677,406	1.5%
132	633 HARBORMASTER - S&W	386,952	401,850	383,858	-4.5%
133	633 HARBORMASTER - EXP	324,470	567,534	568,292	0.1%
134	633 Total	711,422	969,384	952,150	-1.8%
135	670 HISTORICAL COMMISSION - S&W	2,040	2,040	2,040	0.0%
136	670 HISTORICAL COMMISSION - EXP	350	350	350	0.0%
137	670 BROOKS ACADEMY MUSEUM COMM. - EX	14,000	14,000	14,000	0.0%
138	670 Total	16,390	16,390	16,390	0.0%
139	692 CELEBRATIONS - EXP	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%
140	692 Total	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%
141	695 GOLF S&W	1,070,470D	1,077,018	1,110,836	3.1%

**FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

142	695 GOLF - EXP	702,122	714,103	754,150	5.6%
143	695 GOLF -CAPITAL OUTLAY	73,000	73,000	73,000	0.0%
144	695 Total	1,845,592	1,864,121	1,937,986	4.0%
145	698 CULTURAL AFFAIRS - S&W	80,385	86,503	90,420	4.5%
146	698 CULTURAL AFFAIRS - EXP	2,500	2,500	3,000	20.0%
147	698 Total	82,885	89,003	93,420	5.0%
148	699 GOLF IMA MRSD	84,418	84,418	0	-100.0%
149	699 ELECTRICITY - CVEC	77,644	85,408	85,408	0.0%
150	699 Total	162,062	169,826	85,408	-49.7%
151	Total Departmental Budgets	29,672,809	31,303,818	32,914,629	5.1%
152	778 TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (Prin & Int)	2,541,802	3,534,589	3,439,971	-2.7%
153	778 Total	2,541,802	3,534,589	3,439,971	-2.7%
154	SEMI FIXED & FIXED COSTS				
155	Barnstable County Retirement Assessment	3,474,024	3,812,752	3,963,756	4.0%
156	Group Health Insurance	5,362,192	5,791,167	6,167,593	6.5%
157	OPEB Trust Fund Transfer	250,000	250,000	500,000	100.0%
158	Property & Liability Insurance	976,060	1,019,983	1,121,981	10.0%
159	Unemployment Insurance	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
160	Total Semi-Fixed & Fixed Costs	10,082,276	10,893,902	11,773,330	8.1%
161	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET (full cost of Art 4)	42,296,887	45,732,309	48,127,931	5.2%

Appendix C

Five Year Capital Outlay Plan FY 2026 to 2030

273 Queen Anne Rd (Transfer Station)	0	0	545,000	0	0
728 Main Street (Albro House)	0	0	0	100,000	0
732 Main Street (Town Hall)	0	0	275,000	350,000	0
739 Main Street (Brooks Free Library)	0	40,000	814,000	0	0
80 Parallel St (Brooks Academy)	1,300,149	0	0	0	0
715 Route 28 (Harbor complex)	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities Maintenance	1,665,149	9,870,000	1,769,000	450,000	2,940,000
Ambulances	1,100,000	577,500	0	606,375	0
Engines/Other Fire Equipped Vehicles	1,300,000	0	0	0	0
Equipment purchase/replacement	0	285,166	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
Headquarters update	0	0	0	0	550,000
Fire Department	2,400,000	862,666	0	606,375	550,000
Irrigation Update	2,500,000	0	0	0	0
Bunker renovation	0	0	0	900,000	0
Golf	2,500,000	0	0	900,000	0
Allen Harbor Jetty	0	2,350,000	0	0	0
Herring River Ramp replacement	0	300,000	0	0	0
Saquitucket Bulkhead replacements	770,000	0	9,915,000	0	0
Vehicle replacement	75,000	0	0	0	0
Harbors	845,000	2,650,000	9,915,000	0	0
Fire Alarm Replacements	40,000	0	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	65,000	54,000	1,115,000	0
Harwich Elementary School	40,000	65,000	54,000	1,115,000	0
Technology reinvestment	250,000	250,000	250,000	0	0
Electronic Records/Content Management	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Information Technology	350,000	350,000	350,000	100,000	0
Police Cruiser replacements	210,000	215,000	220,000	225,000	230,000
Other vehicles/related equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment replacements	51,000	275,000	275,000	0	73,000
Protective vests	0	0	0	0	70,000
Fencing and electronic gates	0	0	0	175,000	0
Police Department	261,000	490,000	495,000	400,000	373,000
Road maintenance/improvements	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Vehicle replacements	830,000	765,000	865,000	700,000	710,000
Public Works	1,530,000	1,465,000	1,565,000	1,400,000	1,410,000
Collections System Improvements	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Replacements	150,000	0	0	0	0
Wastewater Department	150,000	0	0	0	0
Vehicle replacements	0	350,000	220,000	165,000	90,000
Equipment replacements	0	0	0	0	0
Well rehabilitation	0	0	0	0	0
New well construction	0	3,500,000	0	0	0
196 Chatham Road improvements	0	0	1,500,000	0	0
Paint Pleasant Lake Ave. tank	0	0	0	0	0
Pipe discontinuity upgrade	100,000	2,200,000	0	0	0
Water Department	100,000	6,050,000	1,720,000	165,000	90,000
Great Sand Lakes Sewer Design & Construction	35,000,000	0	0	0	0
Watershed (WMP)	35,000,000	0	0	0	0
ANNUAL TOTALS	44,867,149	21,847,666	15,885,000	5,171,375	5,392,000

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HARWICH
TOWN ELECTION WARRANT
MAY 20, 2025**

BARNSTABLE, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Harwich in said County,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Community Center Gymnasium, 100 Oak Street, in said Town on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. and CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

To choose on one (1) ballot the following Town Officers and Committees: Two (2) members of the Select Board for a three year term; One (1) Town Clerk for a three year term; One (1) member of the Monomoy Regional School Committee for a three year term; Two (2) Trustees of the Brooks Free Library for a three year term; One (1) Water/Wastewater Commissioner for a three year term; One (1) member of the Housing Authority for a five year term; Nine (9) members of Charter Commission.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

1. Shall the Town of Harwich approve the charter amendment proposed by Town Meeting summarized below?

Yes: _____ No: _____

SUMMARY:

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 43B, Section 10, allows Town Meeting to vote to amend the Town's Charter. On May 6, 2024, Harwich's Annual Town Meeting voted to amend the Town's Charter through Article 45 of the warrant. That Charter Amendment is conditioned upon the voters approving the same at this 2025 Annual Town Election.

The proposal will amend the Charter by deleting the remaining references to the word "Selectmen" in all instances in which it appears and replace it with the gender-neutral alternative of "Select Board."

The proposal also will strike the requirement that the annual town meeting be held on the first Monday in May and replace it with language to allow the annual town meeting to meet in the first week of May to adopt the annual operating and capital budgets, and to act on financial and other matters, with the meeting to be continued to other days until all warrant articles have been acted on.

The proposal will also authorize the Chair of the Select Board to delegate a member to sign the warrants for the payment of town funds in the absence of the Town Administrator, as opposed to the whole Select Board voting to delegate a member to do so at a public meeting, and requires that the Chair notify the Town Treasurer of the designated member.

The proposal also adds the position of "human resources" as one in which the Select Board shall appoint and remove and notes that the human resources position will report to both the Town Administrator and the Select Board.

Finally, the proposal will delete the section stating that the Town Administrator shall appoint the harbormaster and assistant harbormasters. It also adds two alternate members to the Board of Health, who will be appointed by the Select Board.

A “YES” vote on this Ballot Question would be in favor of approving these amendments to the Charter.

A “NO” vote on this Ballot Question would be opposed to approving these amendments to the Charter.

2. Shall a Commission be elected to revise the Charter of the Town of Harwich?

Yes: _____ No: _____

3. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay its allocable share of the bonds issued by the Monomoy Regional School District to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto?

Yes: _____ No: _____

4. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ , so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to acquire a new Pumper/Fire Engine and two (2) new ambulances?

Yes: _____ No: _____

5. Shall the Town of Harwich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to construct sewers in the Great Sand Lakes area (Bucks Pond, John Joseph Pond, Kiddies Pond, Sand Lake) in Harwich, including any and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

Yes: _____ No: _____

6. **Public Opinion Advisory Question**
This question is non-binding

WHEREAS, Holtec, owner of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, is discharging untreated radioactively and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater into the atmosphere; and,
WHEREAS, these airborne pollutants are being carried by prevailing winds over and into Cape Cod Bay and our communities; and,
WHEREAS, just as liquid discharge into Cape Cod Bay is in violation of the Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries Act and other state laws, this gaseous discharge also violates the Ocean Sanctuaries Act and other state laws Holtec agreed to follow; and,
WHEREAS, these airborne pollutants threaten public and environmental health and safety-including the safety of Holtec’s own workers- and our marine-based economy;

Therefore, shall the people of the Town of Harwich direct the town government to communicate with Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, the State Legislature, and all other relevant authorities to employ all means available to ensure that the law is enforced and to ensure further that Holtec immediately cease the gaseous discharge of the radioactively and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater at Pilgrim?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Given under our hands this 31st day of March, 2025.

s/ Jeffrey F. Handler, Chair
s/ Peter Piekarski, Clerk
s/ Donald F. Howell
s/ Julie E. Kavanagh

Select Board
Town of Harwich

Attest: s/ Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk

Posted by: s/ David Robinson, Constable, April 8, 2025

DATE: April 8, 2025

By virtue of this Warrant I have this day notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Harwich, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Community Center, 100 Oak Street in said Town on Tuesday, the 20th day of May, 2025, at the time and place for the purpose herein named by posting up attested copies thereon in the four (4) Post Office buildings, in the Town Hall, and in the Community Center in the Town of Harwich, which covers all four precincts, at least fourteen (14) days before the time of said meeting as within directed, and causing an attested copy thereof to be published in the Cape Cod Chronicle published in Barnstable County and having its circulation in the Town of Harwich.

s/ David Robinson, Constable

The following individuals reported to the Harwich Community Center on Election Day, May 20, 2025, to serve as election workers. All election workers were duly sworn in by Town Clerk Emily Mitchell prior to beginning their official duties.

Election Workers: Joyce Bearse, Thomas Benoit, Alice Bonatt, Karen Boujoukos, Susan Carpenter, JoAnne Clancy, Ursula Corbett, Martha Curran, Madeleine Devery, Elaine Dickinson, Nancy Flynn, Carol Genatossio, Laurie Gillespie-Lee, Terry Hayden, Christina Joyce, Ann Kaplan, Susan Kosoff, Antigone London, Joan McGann-Hartigan, Kathleen Muller, Patricia Nock, Kathleen O'Brien, Christine Odiaga, Sheila O'Toole, Dean Panko, Thomas Richardson, Sandra Robinson, Robert Spencer, Judy Sullivan, Kathleen Teahan, LuAnne Tribastone, Steven Tribastone, and Pam Williams.

Board of Registrars: Shirley Knowles, Mary Ann Pina, Deborah Sementa

Town Clerk's Office Staff: Emily Mitchell, Jessica Goodell, and Jenna Nolan

The polls opened at 7:00 AM. Voters were directed to their voting precincts within the Community Center gymnasium. At 8:00 PM, with no voters in sight or waiting in line, Town Clerk Emily Mitchell declared the polls closed. The Town Clerk announced unofficial results at approximately 8:30 PM. A total of 2,098 voters participated, including 43 vote by mail voters, 46 absentee voters, and 2,009 voters who voted in person on Election Day, out of a total 12,164 registered voters.

**Town of Harwich
Annual Town Election - May 20, 2025
Official Results**

	Precinct 1 Total	Precinct 2 Total	Precinct 3 Total	Precinct 4 Total	Total (All Precincts)
Select Board Vote for TWO					
Anita N. Doucette	334	366	259	267	1226
Mark P. Kelleher	344	348	256	223	1171
Kathryn Angela McManus	315	348	230	224	1117
Michael MacAskill (Write In)	12	16	19	26	73
Write In (All Others)	0	1	0	1	2
Blanks	179	189	112	127	607
Total:	1184	1268	876	868	4196
Town Clerk Vote for ONE					
Emily Mitchell, Candidate for Re-election	523	558	384	389	1854
Write In	1	1	0	0	2
Blanks	68	75	54	45	242
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Monomoy Regional School Committee Vote for ONE					
Ryan P. Edwards	196	243	146	176	761
Bretten Fortin	64	68	69	40	241
Ann Marie Varella	237	212	131	169	749
Write In	3	0	1	0	4
Blanks	92	111	91	49	343
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098

Brooks Free Library Board of Trustees					
Vote for TWO					
William David Crowell, Candidate for Re-election	488	507	347	357	1699
Bernadette Corbett Waystack, Candidate for Re-election	449	490	350	332	1621
Write In	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	247	271	179	179	876
Total:	1184	1268	876	868	4196
Water/Wastewater Commission					
Vote for ONE					
Judith Anne Underwood, Candidate for Re-election	373	354	265	282	1274
Ann I. Frechette	118	161	101	80	460
Write In	1	1	0	0	2
Blanks	100	118	72	72	362
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Housing Authority					
Vote for ONE					
Elizabeth Rhodes Harder, Candidate for Re-election	438	472	325	315	1550
Write In	3	2	0	5	10
Blanks	151	160	113	114	538
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Charter Commission					
Vote for NINE					
Herbert Graham Bell	342	345	235	225	1147
Linda A. Cebula	373	367	252	234	1226
Jonathan Paul Chorey	334	345	235	216	1130
Paul Vincent Doane	383	372	256	255	1266
Sandra B. Hall	361	368	246	249	1224
Antigone Jonna London	346	362	244	231	1183
Judith Anne Underwood	357	354	243	218	1172
Louis Urbano	334	331	229	203	1097
Richard J. Waystack	406	426	297	287	1416
Michael MacAskill (Write In)	0	0	4	8	12
Write In (All Others)	0	6	1	0	7
Blanks	2092	2430	1700	1780	8002
Total:	5328	5706	3942	3906	18882
Question 1					
(Charter Amendments)					
Yes	445	502	321	350	1618
No	121	89	94	64	368
Blanks	26	43	23	20	112
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098

Question 2 (Establish Charter Commission)					
Yes	395	435	280	299	1409
No	152	141	123	102	518
Blanks	45	58	35	33	171
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Question 3 (Debt Exclusion - Monomoy Middle School Renovation Project)					
Yes	431	495	338	311	1575
No	132	113	87	108	440
Blanks	29	26	13	15	83
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Question 4 (Debt Exclusion - Fire Department)					
Yes	404	458	309	281	1452
No	152	142	114	136	544
Blanks	36	34	15	17	102
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Question 5 (Debt Exclusion - Great Sand Lakes Wastewater Construction)					
Yes	355	450	268	247	1320
No	196	158	145	164	663
Blanks	41	26	25	23	115
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098
Question 6 (Non-Binding Public Opinion Advisory Question: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station)					
Yes	491	512	363	367	1733
No	63	76	44	50	233
Blanks	38	46	31	17	132
Total:	592	634	438	434	2098

Election Statistics

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Total
Registered Voters	3,355	3,001	2,920	2,888	12,164
Election Day Voters	560	610	423	416	2,009
Early (no excuse Absentee voting) Votes Cast by Mail	14	11	10	8	43
Absentee Votes Cast by Mail	5	4	2	3	14
Absentee Votes Cast in Person	12	9	3	7	31
UOCAVA Voters (active duty military and citizens residing outside the U.S.)	1	-	-	-	1
Total Turnout (All Voting Methods)	592	634	438	434	2,098
Total Turnout Percentage (All Voting Methods)	17.65%	21.13%	15.00%	15.03%	17.25%

The Early and Absentee ballots were distributed to their precincts before the close of polls. They were processed through the precinct voting tabulators and counted with the ballots cast in person at the precincts.

Attest: s/ Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk

Report of the

Harwich Voter Information Committee

The Voter Information Committee's charge is to, "**inform and prepare voters on issues to be addressed at Annual and Special town meetings and the local annual election and to encourage voter registration and participation.**" The committee meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 4:30 pm in the Harwich Channel studio located in the Community Center. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

As of this written report, membership consists of four members, all duly sworn in and with excellent attendance records. Minutes and Agendas are posted promptly by the Committee Clerk. Our current need relates to access to our Committee website and is addressed in the final section of this report.

Civic Engagement Programs: In an effort to expand community awareness of opportunities to serve on Town Committees and Boards, the VIC interviewed the chairs of eight Town Committees and Boards on the Harwich Channel. The VIC extends its thanks to Larry Ballantine (Harwich Affordable Housing Trust), Valerie Bell (Energy & Climate Action), Dave Callahan (Real Estate and Open Space Committee) Linda Cebula (Bylaw Charter Review Committee and Traffic Safety Committee), Ellie Gerson and Deb Gibson (Treasure Chest), Brian Sullivan (Board of Appeals), and Bernadette Waystack (Cultural Council).

Election Programs: In support of the May 2025 Election the following program was hosted and the recording can be found on the Harwich Channel.

- *Annual Election Candidates Forum for the contested races for the School Committee and Select Board,*

Informational Sheets: Three one-page information sheets, as outlined below, were created and have been distributed to high traffic buildings throughout the community, as well as online via the Town website and library social media.

- How to register to vote
- How to join a board/committee

Support and Assistance: The work of the committee could not be undertaken without a great deal of assistance from town and community partners. First, the committee would like to thank Jamie Goodwin of The Harwich Channel and her team for their support recording special programs

throughout the year. We also thank Town Clerk Emily Mitchell for attending our meetings, keeping us informed on the Town Clerk's initiatives and cross promoting our Committee's programs. Additional thanks are owed to Natasha Lyon of the Select Board/Administrator's Office for her help with our Civic Engagement Program. As always, we thank the Board for its support of our endeavors, participation in special programs and assistance in helping to spread the word about our efforts to the wider community. Finally, we owe a good deal of thanks to the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area for moderating the Candidates forums and to the candidates themselves for their participation.

Membership: During Fiscal Year 2025, the VIC had five active, engaged members and met regularly. In September, 2025 (FY26), Vice Chair Amy Jalbert tendered her resignation to the VIC and the Select Board. We thank her for her committed service and wish her well.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Murray, Chair
Term Expires: June 30, 2027

Pauline Teas, Clerk
Term Expires: June 30, 2028

Joy Jordan, Member
Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Emily Milan, Member
Term Expires: June 30, 2027

Report of the **Harwich By-Law/Charter Review Committee**

In accordance with Harwich Home Rule Charter Section 7-16-1, the Committee is charged to regularly review the charter of the town and submit proposed amendments to the Select Board, and to regularly review the by-laws of the town and submit proposed revisions to the town meeting at least once every 5 years.

We still need two members and hopefully members of the community will apply. Many thanks to long-time member Anita Doucette who resigned from the Committee upon being elected to the Select Board.

For the past two years, the Committee conducted a major review of the charter and general by-laws of the Town of Harwich as called for in the charter. Although a prior town meeting agreed to fund consulting services for this type of review, the Committee could not avail itself of these funds for external professional assistance. Therefore, we met, both formally and informally, with various town agencies and reviewed the charters and general by-laws from other towns. The Committee welcomed all input and ideas for improvement in the manner that we as a community choose to govern ourselves.

The Committee has submitted two reports to the Select Board, both January and December of 2024. A few of the items submitted in the January 2024 report were placed on the warrant for May 2024 annual town meeting, accepted by the voters, and were included in the town ballot for May 2025. All passed and were approved by the Commonwealth. We hope that the Select Board will act on other suggestions in a timely manner for inclusion in the warrant for May 2026 annual town meeting.

With the election of a formal Charter Commission and the election of its nine members, the Committee has not been meeting. The Committee did provide our two reports to the Charter Commission and two of the committee members were elected to the Charter Commission. We are ready to help as requested by the Commission. If there are any articles proposed for the May 2026 warrant, we will review and discuss as needed.

All Committee members attended meetings regularly; we have two vacancies. We thank town officials and employees for participating in our discussions and the citizens who attend our meetings. We also thank our Finance Committee liaisons and our Select Board liaison Jeffrey Handler, for their helpful input.

Respectfully submitted by
Town of Harwich By-Law/Charter Review Committee

Linda Cebula, Chair
Sandra Hall, Vice-Chair
Deborah Sementa, Clerk

Report of the **Charter Commission**

Under Article 89 of the Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, Massachusetts communities have the right to create a local charter which defines the community's form of government and its overall structure. In 1987, Harwich voters approved the first Charter of the Town of Harwich. While the original Charter has been amended from time to time, at the annual election in May 2025, Harwich voters approved the formation of a Charter Commission and elected its nine members. The Charter Commission is an elected body independent of the town's Select Board. The Charter Commission is required to follow Open Meeting Law, posting agendas and minutes as required.

Upon being established, The Charter Commission is charged with a comprehensive review of the existing charter, seeking input from all stakeholders through public meetings and hearings. Within sixteen months after election, the Commission will prepare a preliminary report of their recommendations which will be reviewed by the Attorney General. Within eighteen months after election, a final report will be produced, and a copy will be mailed to every residence in Harwich. All proposed revisions to the existing Charter will be placed on the next annual town ballot (expected to be May 2027).

Since the election of the Charter Commission and its members, the Commission has held one public hearing as required, solicited input from residents and various town agencies and town employees, and has met twenty-five times in 2025. We engaged the services of the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management to provide professional research and guidance. We anticipate additional public sessions to obtain feedback from residents.

In reviewing the existing Charter, the Commission members seek to honor the community's past while creating a framework that will ensure the sustainability of our community for the coming years. There are areas of the Charter that need clarification, to avoid conflicting interpretations that have become an issue over the years. There are areas that need to have clear definition as to who has the authority to do specific things and to whom town employees report. We have discussed strengthening the authority of the town administrator while strengthening the role of the Select Board.

One of the elected members, Antigone London, resigned from the Commission. As provided by law, the remaining members elected Brendan Lowney as our ninth member. Many thanks to Toni for her efforts.

Many thanks to Town Clerk Emily Mitchell for providing information, to Natasha Lyon for graciously agreeing to post our agendas, and to Judith Moldstad for her timely and concise minutes.

Respectfully submitted by
Members of the Charter Commission:

Linda Cebula Chair
Sandra Hall Vice-Chair
Jon Chorey Treasurer
Lou Urbano Clerk,
Herb Bell
Paul Doane, Brendan Lowney
Judith Underwood
Richard Waystack.

HUMAN SERVICES

Report of the

Brooks Academy Museum Commission

Past funding supported at the 2023 Harwich Town Meeting totaled \$475,000 from the Sale of Land Sinking Fund with an additional amount of \$640,000 from the Community Preservation Act Funds for exterior preservation and window restoration for a total of \$1,160,000. At the 2025 Harwich Town Meeting, an additional \$1,200,000 was approved to complete all repairs and improvements primarily on the exterior of the building required at this time, as well as some improvements needed to meet current codes.

One of the key needs is the installation of a “Luna” lift. This will be installed to provide access from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor and the basement. A new handicap entry to the building will be located on the south side of the building. The current ramp will be removed from that existing location on the building to allow installation of the “Luna” lift.

In July 2025 the Design Selection Committee, which included Meggan Eldredge, Acting Town Administrator, Sean Libby, Facilities Maintenance Manager, Duncan Berry, Planning Board Chair, Robert Nickerson, Chair of the Brooks Academy Museum Commission and John Racine, Owners Project Manager Team (RBG Architects) was assembled to review the proposals submitted for the restoration project described above.

Six architectural firms submitted qualifications for design services for the “Design and Construction Administration Brooks Academy Museum”. Members of the Selection Committee reviewed all six sets of submitted qualifications and rated each submittal. Three of the six firms were selected for interviews with the Design Selection Team. The final selection after the interviews were completed was Habib & Associates Architects (H&A) and was unanimous by the Design Selection Team. The Select Board then completed fee negotiations with H&A.

The project is now moving forward with H&A key personnel completing their first detailed review of the Brooks Academy Museum in December 2025. Sean Libby is the key contact and project manager for the Town of Harwich for this project and has significant experience with the Brooks

Academy Museum as his staff has completed work at the Brooks Academy Museum in the past.

Recently we were informed by Sean Libby that the Harwich Historic Society will now have access to the Brooks Academy building through the end of June 2026. At that time it is anticipated that work on the building will be initiated.

The Crowell Barn has been a significant addition to the Brooks Academy site. With the barn reassembled in 2014 it provides the opportunity to hold carving classes which are led by Master Carver Paul Phillips. He teaches three carving classes per year, with about 40 students or so taking the course. Classes occur weekly for ten weeks. The Harwich Historic Society supports this effort in managing the class sign up, advertising and any assistance required by Paul. We appreciate the level of effort by Paul Phillips in sharing his knowledge and time in teaching this craft. Additionally we need to provide our appreciation to Paul Doane who has strongly supported the site of the Crowell Barn as well as his volunteering on the landscaping of the property.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Nickerson, Chair
Patsy Ford, Vice Chair
Lynne Zalesak, Clerk
Janet Cassidy

Report of the **Brooks Free Library**

739 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645
Phone: (508) 430-7562
Email: brooksfreelibrary@clamsnet.org
Website: www.brooksfreelibrary.org

Vision Statement

“a world of ideas in the heart of the community”

Mission Statement

Brooks Free Library promotes full and equal access to information and ideas, the love of reading, the joy of learning, and engagement with the arts, sciences and humanities.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Brooks Free Library Board of Trustees and Library Director respectfully submit this Annual Report for calendar year 2025. The Library was established in 1880 by Colonel Henry C. Brooks and was the first public library in the town of Harwich. The Library was accepted by the Town in 1910 and became a department of the Town of Harwich. Following the provisions of the Town Charter, the Library is governed by a seven-member elected Board of Trustees. which is responsible for personnel management, appointment of Library staff, and overseeing the administration and operation of the Library. This year William Crowell and Bernadette Waystack were re-elected to new three-year terms on the Board of Trustees.

Library Services

Brooks Free Library plays an essential role as a resource center and a gathering place for the community, offering collections, resources, technology, services and programs that encourage lifelong learning, discovery and personal growth and development. Library services are designed to respond to the needs and interests of individuals while also strengthening connections between community members. Our open hours include evening and Saturday hours to accommodate the varying schedules of community members. Current Library hours are Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 7 PM and Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM.

FY25 Statistics (July 2024 - June 2025)

Number of Registered Borrowers	9567
Items in the Collection	134012
Items Checked Out	288448
Use of Electronic Resources	390231
Inter-Library Loans	64058
Reference Questions	12010
Programs for Adults	436
Attendance at Programs for Adults	2049
Programs for Youth	89
Attendance at Programs for Youth	555
Programs for Children	298
Attendance at Programs for Children	12628
Total Number of Programs	823
Total Attendance at Programs	15232

Collections and Resources

Many community members visit the Library regularly to check out books, movies, audiobooks, and magazines, and circulation of physical items remains a cornerstone of library service, even in this digital age. With 69,510 print books and physical movies, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers on our shelves, Brooks Free Library has one of the largest collections of physical items in the CLAMS consortium, providing patrons a wide selection of reading materials and the opportunity to browse the collection, discover new authors and titles or to explore non-fiction topics in depth. Our subscriptions to local, regional and national newspapers enable patrons to keep up with current events, and a variety of magazines can be perused in the Library or borrowed to read at home. Our Library of Things contains technology such as Internet hotspots, laptops and devices that can be checked out for use at home or on the road, practical items such as an automotive check engine code reader, soil meter and light therapy lamp, and items for recreational use such as Blu-ray, CD and DVD players, large outdoor games, and bird watching and star gazing kits. Passes for discounted or free admission to 17 museums and attractions are available, thanks to subscriptions paid for by the Friends of Brooks Free Library.

In addition to physical items, our cardholders have access to an amazing amount of electronic content: 64,592 e-books, downloadable audiobooks and online magazines are available through our Overdrive subscription, our Hoopla subscription provides access to over 500,000 e-books, audiobooks, graphic novels, magazines, feature films and documentaries, and 30,000 films, documentaries and TV shows are available through our Kanopy subscription. Demand for e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming movies

continues to rise sharply, but circulation growth remains constrained by the lending restrictions of the vendors who provide this electronic content to libraries. We also subscribe to resources that provide our patrons with ability to read hundreds of local, regional, national and international newspapers such as the Cape Cod Times, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and many more online, for free, just as they appear in print. Use of online newspapers has become a very popular service.

Access to technology remains a big draw for community members, who visit the Library to use the Internet, send and receive emails, prepare resumes, submit job applications, access government information, apply for services, and to print, scan and send documents. Patrons also take advantage of designated quiet areas and our fast, reliable wi-fi service for remote work and online educational programs. Drop-in assistance with technology is available in our Reference Department during all open hours and one-on-one technology help sessions are scheduled when more in-depth assistance is needed. Our VITAL (Vision Impaired Technology Assistance at the Library) program remains a leader in the field, providing community members not only with access to assistive technology hardware and software, but also with invaluable individualized instruction to teach people with low or no vision to use this technology.

Our Reference Department continues to play a vital role in helping community members find accurate, reliable, and timely information. Staff members assist users with research questions, locating materials, and navigating print and digital resources. By offering guidance and access to trustworthy sources, our reference service empowers patrons to make informed decisions and helps them develop stronger information literacy skills. Like all use of Library resources, reference questions are confidential, protected by the ethics of the library profession and by Massachusetts General Law. This ensures patrons can seek information freely, without concern for their privacy.

Programs

This year the Library provided 823 programs for children, youth and adults, with a combined attendance of 15232. Programs are provided at no cost to attendees, so there are no financial barriers for community members to participate in and enjoy any program.

Recurring adult programs include two book groups and a weekly Knit-Lit group. Several special series were offered this year: Executive Assistant Carey Sims held a weekly Puzzle People group during the winter and spring and Youth Services Librarian Ann Carpenter led a monthly discussion

group for young adults and adults reviewing contenders for the Stonewall Book Award. Assistive Technology Coordinator Carla Burke led “Living with Vision Loss,” a 10-month series for individuals who are blind or have low vision, with sessions focusing on topics such as adjusting to vision loss, medication management, household tasks, and access to print and other media.

Special programs for adults this year included Spring and Fall Gardening programs with Master Gardener Steven Flack and Diane DiGennaro of the Garden Club of Harwich, three sessions of Tame Your Inbox: Email Management led by Deputy Director Jennifer Pickett and Reference Librarian Jamie Thornton, and a presentation from Mass. Audubon on Birding by Ear. Two programs were offered by recipients of grants from the Harwich Cultural Council: Kim Moberg’s Seven Fires Prophecy and a poetry workshop led by Judith Partelow. Staff Librarian Gavin Williams began a series celebrating the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States, with a presentation by Dr. David Martin in October on the new book *The Revolutionary War on Cape Cod and the Islands: Issues, Events, and People*. The series will continue in the months leading up to the Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026, with programs such as a presentation by Harwich Historical Society board member Lynne Zalesak, who researched and wrote the Harwich chapter of *The Revolutionary War on Cape Cod and the Islands*, and a fife and drum performance.

The Friends of Brooks Free Library continued their popular First Sunday series in 2025, with special performances and lectures on Sunday afternoons from October through June. This year the series featured musical performances by Crabgrass Bluegrass, Bourbon Sunset, and Jack and Oriana, an author talk with Deborah Swiss, author of “The Tin Ticket,” presentations on butterflies and artificial intelligence, and a visit from “Garden Lady” C.L. Fornari.

Programming for children, tweens and teens continues to be a major focus of our programming efforts. Year-round programs for young children included story-times on Tuesdays and Thursdays, regular arts and crafts programs and special programs featuring magicians, storytellers and animal programs. Our Youth Services Librarian visits classrooms at the Harwich Elementary School every Monday during the school year, conducting story-time, story talks and promoting recreational reading, and hosts regular visits from the Laurel School. Fun, drop-in activities for tweens and teens are offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, providing a safe and welcoming place for students after school. Offerings this year included Magic: The Gathering, Pokemon Club, Engineering Challenges, Food & Fun, and a Read Aloud Book Cub. A variety of programs are also offered

during all school vacation weeks. Highlights this year included Family Sheet Fort Night, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Animal Ambassadors, Puppets, Paul and Mary, a K-Pop Demon Hunters Party, and arts and crafts programs.

Summer 2025 was another busy one at Brooks Free Library. 392 children, tweens and teens participated in the reading portion of the Summer Reading Program, earning a free book and other prizes. 2624 children and family members attended the 77 programs offered during the Summer Reading Program. The Friends of Brooks Free Library paid for special programs such as Animal World Experience, Circus Science and Silliness, Storytime with the Harwich Mariners, Big Ryan's Tall Tales, Rainforest Reptiles, Reading to Dogs, and several magic shows. In addition, the incredible staff members in our Youth Services Department personally provided over 65 programs during the 10 weeks of the Summer Reading Program. Activities included ice cream making, Slime, dirt cakes, the egg drop engineering challenge, tie-dye t-shirts, and interactive movies. Many Summer Reading Programs conclude in early to mid-August, but our program continues until Labor Day. This period is especially important for local families, as many experience a "childcare gap" once summer camps end. By offering fun, enriching activities, we support parents and grandparents while helping families spend meaningful time together before the busy school year begins.

Friends and Volunteers

The Library benefits enormously from the support of the Friends of Brooks Free Library, and we are extremely grateful for all they do. Beyond organizing the First Sunday series, funding special Summer Reading Program events and purchasing museum passes, the Friends pay for a leased book collection to provide additional copies of bestsellers, which reduces the wait times for popular items, and they provide additional funding for our VITAL program for people with vision loss. The Friends also coordinate and manage the "Books on Wheels" service, which utilizes volunteer drivers to deliver library materials to Harwich residents who are permanently or temporarily unable to visit the library due to illness, physical disability, lack of transportation, or any other reason that makes it either difficult to get to the Library. The Friends finance their work through memberships, donations, and book sales. There are on-going book sale shelves in the lobby, available during all open hours, and a Bookstore in the basement that is open for several hours every day the Library is open. Donations of gently used, recently published books in good condition are welcomed and appreciated.

The Library is also fortunate to be supported by many dedicated volunteers who help with daily operations by shelving returned items, filling hold requests, and shelf-reading to keep collections well organized. We also benefit from the support of volunteer groups. We extend our sincere thanks to the Harwich Garden Club for maintaining the lovely garden on the library grounds, which features blooms all season long, as well as the blooming barrel in front of the Library on Main St. Garden Club members also provide attractive floral arrangements each month for the Circulation area and beautifully decorated wreaths for the holidays. Students from the SHORE program at Monomoy Regional High School visit twice a week to provide clerical assistance to our Assistive Technology Coordinator, and Community Connections volunteers regularly help with a variety of collection maintenance tasks.

The Library is deeply grateful to our Friends group and all of our volunteers for their generous support and dedication. Because of their efforts, we're able to better serve our community and provide a welcoming, vibrant library for all. We truly could not do this work without them.

Staffing Changes

Following the departure of Circulation Librarian Kelly Depin in June, Senior Library Technician Kyle Brennan was promoted to Circulation Librarian in September. Library Assistant John Parker resigned in the spring. Pam North resigned from her Senior Library Technician position, but has remained on the staff as a substitute Library Assistant. In October, Matthew Cockcroft and Lauren Hayden were hired for Senior Library Technician positions.

Respectfully submitted,

BROOKS FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bernadette Waystack, Chair
Patricia Murray, Vice Chair and Personnel Committee
William Crowell, Treasurer
Linda Cebula, Secretary
JoAnne Brown, Buildings and Grounds Committee
Joan McCarty
Jeannie Wheeler, Building and Grounds Committee

2025 BROOKS FREE LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS

Virginia Hewitt	Library Director
Jennifer Pickett	Deputy Director
Ann Carpenter	Youth Services Librarian
Jamie Thornton	Reference Librarian
Kyle Brennan	Circulation Librarian
Gavin Williams	Staff Librarian
Alan Caughey	Staff Librarian
Carey Sims	Executive Assistant
Carla Burke	Assistive Technology Coordinator
Shanaz Petty	Shift Supervisor
Lee Kelley	Senior Library Technician
Pam Paine	Senior Library Technician
Matthew Cockcroft	Senior Library Technician
Lauren Hayden	Senior Library Technician

Library Assistants/ Substitute Pool:

Olivia Appleton, Mary Baksa-Mathews, Christine George,
Jackie Leach, Judy Nichols, Pam North, and John Parker

Report of the **Trustees of the Caleb Chase Fund**

On January 21, 1899, Caleb Chase of West Harwich and one of this Town's great benefactors signed his Last Will and Testament. He bequeathed to the Town of Harwich Ten Thousand Dollars (approximately \$250,000 in present value) to financially assist certain residents of need. Subsequent Town Meeting actions, over a period of years, established an independent three-member Board of Trustees with staggered three-year terms appointed by the Moderator. The Trustees were instructed by the Meeting to manage and administer said funds and to establish policies pertaining to the awarding of grants to assist financially qualified Town applicants. Grants are made payable directly only to the vendors who provide the essential support services in accordance with the Board's operational policies. In the issuance of Chase Fund grants, the Trustees may utilize third parties within the Town, including the Council on Aging and The Harwich Fund, to identify qualified eligible Town grant recipients and their supporting vendors.

During the past Fiscal Year, the Chase Fund distributed \$19,666 to qualified Harwich residents. This represented an increase in grants of approximately 33% over FY'24, a level of increase that had been expected by the Trustees to rebound to more traditional levels of financial support. The improving portfolio valuation was able to accommodate the increase in demand. During the year, July 1-June 30, the portfolio grew an additional \$49,814, to end the fiscal year at \$642,799. The overall equity markets remained volatile with four recoveries following three downturns, the last and largest of the downturns occurring in the fiscal third quarter. However, the portfolio recovered nicely in the fourth quarter to post an overall annual return of 11.5%, in line with the Fund's benchmark.

The Portfolio's asset mix ended the fiscal year with:

Cash	2%
Fixed Income	15%
Alternatives	7%
Equity ETF's	76%

The Fund's assets are fully invested in a portfolio of publicly traded equity and fixed securities, employing Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), U.S Treasury securities and CD's, fixed income mutual funds and a small cash reserve to meet planned drawdowns. The Trustees work with the Town Finance Department by quarterly forwarding Trust funds to the Town which issues payment to vendors servicing qualified grant applicants. The Portfolio

in FY'25 generated \$14,117 in dividends and interest income while the balance of portfolio appreciation comes from realized and unrealized capital gains.

The Trustees continue to regularly review its grant Policies working with Town social services providers to ensure that Chase Fund grants are effectively being responsive to changing economic circumstances and areas of assistance requests of applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Doane, Treasurer
James Stinson, Esq. Clerk
Paul Doane, Esq. Chairman

Report of the **The Harwich Channel**

The Harwich Channel extends its sincere appreciation to the citizens, staff, volunteers, and boards and committees of the Town of Harwich for another productive and successful year. As always, our mission remains to provide transparent, accessible, and timely government-access media to the community. This year, our department celebrated significant infrastructure and technology advancements that will support enhanced meeting coverage and an improved viewer experience for many years to come.

A major milestone for 2025 was the installation of new fiber infrastructure at our head end in the Harwich Community Center. This upgrade is a foundational step in preparing the station for a full high-definition (HD) broadcast transition. With the cooperation of Comcast and its subcontractors, the groundwork for the HD upgrade is now complete, and we look forward to delivering a clearer and more modern viewing experience once the full conversion is finalized in mid to late 2026.

As we continue to refine our production capabilities, the station maintained comprehensive coverage of the Town's regulatory boards and committees. This year, we successfully covered 33 out of 36 active boards and committees, with a goal of full coverage in the coming year. Additional programming highlights included Town Band concerts, the Muddy Creek Bridge Dedication Ceremony, the Community Center Talent Show, Veterans ceremonies, and many others.

Caleb Ladue, our Video and Community Information Specialist, continued his exceptional work overseeing timely uploads to our YouTube channel, maintaining public meeting webpages, and improving access to digital meeting materials. For calendar year 2025, the channel uploaded 386 videos with 41,836 views—surpassing prior years and ensuring residents have fast, reliable access to meeting recordings. Caleb also continues to support software and website enhancements that improve public access to agendas, minutes, and meeting resources. Thank you, Caleb, for your continued dedication and high-quality work.

Matthew Hamilton, our part-time videographer, celebrated another strong year of service with the Harwich Channel. His consistent evening meeting coverage and flexibility remain essential to our ability to serve the Town. Thank you, Matt, for your continued commitment and professionalism.

Our volunteers remain a treasured asset to the department. We extend our sincere gratitude to Dinah Lane for her steadfast coverage of community

events and informational programming, and to Jim and Jane Fulton for their continued dedication to documenting Town Band concerts and other community traditions. The spirit, reliability, and passion of our volunteers enrich the Harwich Channel's mission beyond government coverage alone.

As I enter my 16th year with the Town of Harwich and my 13th year as department head, it continues to be an honor to serve the citizens of this community. Our department remains committed to transparency, innovation, and excellence in municipal media. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Goodwin
Station Manager

Report of the

Community Center Facilities Committee

Purpose: The Committee is a sounding board ensuring that the needs of all Harwich residents are met in the 3,200 square foot facility built in 2000, and shared by the Council on Aging, Recreation and Youth Services, the Cemetery Department, Veterans Affairs, Meals on Wheels, and the Harwich Channel. The Committee discusses and provides input to facility operations, budgets and plans that are submitted to the Town Administrator.

The Committee is pleased to submit the 25th Annual Report to our community, the Selectboard, Harwich residents, and all stakeholders. This report highlights the Committee's activities and accomplishments in 2025 and encourages readers to share feedback or suggestions to help the Committee better serve residents of all ages and abilities.

The Facilities Committee: The five-member Committee holds monthly meetings and is comprised of Chair Angelina Chilaka, Vice Chair Heath Eldredge, Clerk Christina Joyce, Recreation and Youth Commission Representative Phyllis Thomason, and a vacant Council on Aging Committee Representative. Agendas have been posted in accordance with policy and approved meeting minutes are accessible at the Facilities Committee's page, of the Town of Harwich's website. We sincerely thank both Ralph Smith and Vahan Kachadoorian for their many valued years of service as representatives from the Council on Aging Committee and Recreation and Youth Commission respectively. Both recently stepped down after long-term involvement and significant contributions to the Committee.

2025 Building Upgrades

- The following upgrades were completed:
- New carpeting was installed throughout the building, including common areas, offices, and hallways.
- Multiple areas of the building, including many activity rooms, were freshly painted.
- Several new folding tables were purchased to replace damaged ones and to better accommodate the many groups using the building daily.
- The Weight Room floor was replaced with easier-to-clean flooring better suited for fitness use.
- Thanks to a generous donor, the Millie & Tip O'Neill Gardens received a thorough spring cleanup.
- New childproof blinds were installed throughout the building.

Fitness Center: The Center continues to provide a comprehensive and affordable facility designed for Harwich members 16 and older an area where they can maintain their fitness, well-being, and overall health. To date, the Fitness Rooms recorded approximately 21,245 check-ins. We are pleased to continue offering personal training sessions with certified trainer, Jill Brown. As part of the monthly membership, Jill is available two mornings a week to provide guidance on safe and effective equipment use. Using Fitness Center fees, we were able to perform several fitness equipment upgrade and maintenance tasks.

Game Room: The Game Room features two pool tables, two ping pong tables and a foosball table, and is available to all residents at no cost.

Passport Services: The Community Center offers Passport Services which include passport application processing for in-person applicants, passport photos and assistance with passport-related questions. The certification as a passport facility is renewed every three years; and agents are required to pass a yearly exam. Our two certified passport agents, Carolyn Carey, and Samantha Estabrook processed approximately 463 passport applications in 2025. That number does not include passport renewals.

Room Use and Options: The Community Center offers both single-use and annual rental options for five activity rooms, a multipurpose room, a regulation-sized gymnasium, and a kitchen (available under specific guidelines). These spaces are used by individuals, clubs, and various organizations for a wide range of activities, including health and fitness, arts and crafts, music, games, social and service groups, special interest meetings, and support or self-improvement programs. The building also serves as the location for Annual and Special Town Meetings as well as Elections.

Communications: Social media, The Harwich Channel 8, and Newsletters: The Community Center staff publishes a monthly newsletter, promotes events on The Harwich Channel 8 and at the Selectboard meetings. Wide distribution of event and program flyers continues to connect our community through our Facebook page posts.

Collaboration: the Community Center staff collaborated with many Town departments, Harwich non-profit organizations, and local businesses. Among the collaborations are the Council on Aging, Youth and Family Services, Health Department, Police and Fire Departments, Harwich Recreation Department, Cape Cod Theatre Company/Harwich Junior Theater, and The Harwich Children's Fund.

Programs:

- The Community Center offered the following events and programs:
- Free Community Pasta Dinners
- Family Dance Party
- Community Talent Show
- Talks with Betty Trummel
- radKIDS
- Volunteer Fair
- Free Sound Dunes Swing Band Concerts
- 25th Anniversary Celebrations
- Free Ice Cream Birthday Party
- Minute To Win It Game Night
- Wabi Sabi Performance
- Try Our Fitness Room for Free
- Prom Dress Boutique
- Fun Pant Friday
- Decorate a Duck
- Birthday T-Shirt Design Contest
- Free Community Shredding Event
- Winter Pet Trivia Night
- Mad Science – Fire & Ice
- Ducks on Display
- Annual Duck Hunt
- Valentines Day Crafts
- Free Pancake Breakfast
- Birthday Video Booth
- Laser Tag
- Card Making
- Open Mic Night
- Mardi Gras Party
- On & Off Leash Etiquette
- Bingo Nights
- Youth & Family Safety Talk
- Slime Making
- DIY Egg Hunt
- Narnia Fashion Show
- Bunny Photo Op
- Guess the Jellybeans
- Adult Prom Night
- Seed Starting Party
- Book Talk with Michael Pregot
- April Vacation Step-athon
- Canine Body Language

- Bicycle Safety Talk
- Dip & Paint
- Fairy Craft Night
- HVAC Talk
- Pickleball Performance & Injury Prevention Workshop
- Summer Kick Off Ice Cream Party
- Cape Harmony Concerts
- Cape Cod Military Museum Talks
- New Fitness Classes
- V-J Day Big Band Benefit Concert
- Community Yard Sale
- Summer Movie Series
- Barks in the Park
- Sports Trivia Night
- CPR Training
- Matters of the Heart Series
- Drop In College Essay Coaching
- Halloween Boo-tique
- 50's & 60's Sound Dunes Sock Hop
- Halloween Craft Night Party
- Trick or Treating at the Community Center
- Teen Clothing Swap
- Fall Community Indoor Yard Sale
- Intro to EFT Tapping
- Clue Scavenger Hunt
- Grab Bag Crafts
- Santa Pet Photos
- Corn Husk Figure Making
- Decoupage
- Gardens Aglow Group Trip
- Sound Dunes Holiday Concert
- Winter Solstice Drum Circle
- Grab-a-Bow

Community Pasta Dinner: A standout event this year is the Community Pasta Dinner. Initiated in 2024, this event has experienced significant attendance growth in 2025. On average, volunteers serve between 100 and 150 community members of all ages a complimentary pasta meal the first Thursday of the month. Beyond the dinner and socialization benefits, the event often features free entertainment and valuable information about many community resources, such as the Health Department staffed information booths. These dinner gatherings have a meaningful impact on our community by fostering connection and access

to important information. The Facilities Committee and Community Center staff extend heartfelt thanks to all volunteers whose dedication has made the Community Pasta Dinners a continued success.

25th Anniversary Celebration: In February, the Community Center proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary with a month-long series of special events and activities. Each day featured unique events or programs, including educational talks, free ice cream socials, a video booth, our annual duck decorating event, music, bingo, craft activities, and much more. These celebrations provided opportunities for community members of all ages to come together, learn, enjoy a wide range of engaging experiences, and celebrate the Community Center's 25 years serving Harwich.

Community Involvement: We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who generously donated their time and talents to benefit our community this year. Contributions included presentations on travel, history, and literature, CPR classes, youth and family information sessions, and a wide range of other valuable programs. Your efforts have helped provide an extraordinary variety of resources and experiences for our community; for this the Committee and Community Center staff are deeply grateful.

Computer Stations: This year marks the second year of having computer stations available for public use. Three new workstations were added and now grace the desks built and donated by the Chatham Harwich Newcomers Woodworking Club. The computers have quickly become a valuable resource at the Center used by people of all ages throughout the day.

Staff: The Community Center has a dedicated team that plays a key role in the success of our daily operations, events, and programs. Our core team consists of Building Director Carolyn Carey, Executive Assistant Samantha Estabrook, and Program Specialist III Reagan Wilda. The Center is also supported by part-time customer service representatives, each working 19 hours or fewer per week. Art Steidel, Kim Fernandez, Francesca Cusack, Josh Cusack, Molly Mott, Mary Ellen Nunes along with new hires, Gabrielle Hurley, Micheal Mitchell, Mark Kripp and Jen Burnie.

Volunteers Opportunities: Volunteers of all ages contributed their time at the front desk and at numerous events throughout the year. The Facilities Committee and Community Center staff sincerely thank each volunteer for sharing time and talent. The Facilities Committee members thank the work of each department that contributes to both the smooth operation of the building, and the quality of services offered to the Harwich community. We remain committed to exploring new ways to enhance

the building and its programs. It is a privilege to collaborate with such an engaged and dynamic community.

We look forward to serving our community and welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we move into 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angelina Chilaka, Chair

Heath Eldredge, Vice-Chair

Christina Joyce, Clerk

Phyllis Thomason, Recreation and Youth Commission Representative

Community Preservation Committee

Harwich adopted the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**, modified to accommodate the replacement of the Land Bank, effective July 1, 2005. The primary source of revenue for the Community Preservation Fund is a property tax surcharge of 3% assessed on every parcel of taxable real estate in Harwich. Additional revenue for the fund comes from the State Community Preservation Trust Fund allocation, annually. Community Preservation monies may be appropriated and spent for **Open Space, Historic Resources, Community Housing, and Recreation purposes that meet CPA guidelines.**

The committee is comprised of 9 members: 2 Select Board appointees and representatives from the following areas - Housing Committee, Housing Authority, Recreation Commission, Historic Commission, Real Estate/Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board. Thirteen meetings were held this year.

This year's projects included the revising of our grant agreements - these are a legal document between the Select Board and non-town entities that spell out the guidelines required for the use of CPA funds. We also worked on increasing our Social Media presence - we are currently using the Brooks Free Library Facebook page to do that. Our annual Public Information hearing was held in June 2025 where we welcomed public input and concerns. An independent audit was requested by the CPC so that CPA funds were allocated to the correct reserve funds. Semi-annual reports were required by all project managers on projects that had been approved at town meeting but had not yet been completed. This helps us make sure that the funds the taxpayers have approved are spent on what they were meant for and if funds are not needed any longer, they are rescinded back to their appropriate reserve fund. A new on-line form was added to our project guidelines making it simpler to report. We have also been working on more permanent signage for completed projects - this is on-going as we navigate the sign requirements of the town and the historic commission. And in addition, we have constantly been updating our webpage to keep you, the taxpayer, apprised of everything we do.

For the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, the committee vetted and voted to support 9 submitted projects for funding approval. Projects: Open Space-purchase and hold conservation restriction on approximately 50 acres located adjacent to the Cape Cod Rail Trail in collaboration with

Harwich Conservation Trust; Historic Resources-North Harwich cemetery gravestone preservation; Community Housing-fund the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust, support the Lower Cape Housing Institute, and fund Forward At The Rock - a cape wide multi-town regional housing project for Cape Codder's with autism and related disabilities; Recreation-funding for study, design and permitting of a raised boardwalk over the Herring River in the Bell's Neck conservation area, new infield at Brooks Park baseball field, additional funding for the Sand Ponds restroom completion, and funding for a shade structure at Veteran's Field. This year's project requests total over \$1.6 million. The breakdown by category is as follows: Open Space - 500K, Historic Resources - 37K, Recreation - 444K, and Community Housing - 630K.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Nixon, Chairman

Report of the **Council On Aging**

The Council on Aging (COA) continues to promote its mission, which is to support and advocate for older adults, their families, and caregivers.

The COA serves this mission in a variety of ways. We organize and facilitate programs designed to meet a wide variety of older adults' needs including health and fitness, socialization, nutrition, recreation, and more. We offer many services benefiting Harwich residents, including SHINE counselors who help navigate the complicated world of Medicare health insurance; attorneys who specialize in elder law; caseworkers from the Homeless Prevention Council; podiatry nurses who offer foot care clinics, and specialized support groups.

With the two wheelchair-accessible vans leased to us at no cost from the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, we provide free transportation to all COA programming as well as to the library, Town Hall, local grocery stores, and other essential businesses. We also provide delivery service from the Family Pantry to any Harwich senior who needs this support, and we coordinate transportation to healthcare appointments under our volunteer medical ride program.

Our bimonthly COA newsletter, which serves as the primary source for sharing information about COA programs and resources with the public, is mailed to nearly 2,300 homes each month. With the help of dedicated volunteers, another 200 copies are distributed to public locations around town, including Town Hall, Brooks Free Library, the Public Safety building, local senior housing complexes, and large medical offices in town. With the help of My Senior Center software, we also distribute the newsletter via email to over 500 individuals.

The COA is led by Director Julie Groom, who has a background in case management, program management, and healthcare research. In her six years with us, she has developed wonderful relationships with our members and volunteers. Ms. Groom leads a team of six full time professional staff, who together provide the services and programs that enable our seniors to be active, thriving members of our community: Susan Jusell, Town Nurse; Saranya Hayward, MSW, Social Services Coordinator; Rosa Wright, Program Specialist III; Lauren Swift, Executive Assistant; Kate Seeley, Program Specialist I; and Linda St. Pierre, Town Chef. The department is also supported by our wonderful part-time Van Drivers and per diem Nurses and Chef who provide substitute coverage.

The Council on Aging could not provide the breadth and scope of programs and services without the aid of our 75+ volunteers, who together have logged over 3,500 hours of service in 2025 – the equivalent of two full-time staff. Their donations of time, energy and experience make our Council successful in reaching out to the countless members of our community. We are immensely grateful for their service! To thank our volunteers for all they do throughout the year, we hold biannual volunteer recognition programs. This past year, we held a well-attended luncheon in the Spring at a local restaurant, and a brunch reception at the Community Center in the Fall. Our gratitude to our volunteers pales in comparison to the work they do for the older adults of our community.

The COA has an exceptional relationship with the Friends of the Harwich Council on Aging, a 501C(3) nonprofit organization which supports programs and needs outside the scope of the town budget for our seniors. The COA Director attends Friends meetings monthly to coordinate programs and to continue to monitor the needs of our senior population; similarly, a member of the Friends attends the monthly COA Board meetings to enhance collaboration. Through their generosity, they have stepped up to purchase the equipment necessary to continue to provide quality, nutritious meals and provide services not available through the budgeting process.

The Council on Aging Board of Directors meets monthly, each third Wednesday at the Community Center at 10:00 AM. Our posted meetings are open to the public, and we welcome any and all who share in our mission of providing comprehensive support for Harwich's senior population.

It is our honor and pleasure to assist the residents of Harwich, their families and caregivers; we thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Report of the **Golf Department**

The Cranberry Valley Golf Course experienced another successful and productive year in 2025, highlighted by strong participation, record-setting financial performance, continued capital investment, and an active schedule of tournaments and community events. The golf department remains committed to maintaining Cranberry Valley as a premier public golf facility for residents, pass holders, and visitors to the Town of Harwich.

Rounds Played

Total rounds played at Cranberry Valley Golf Course during the 2025 season reached **44,601**, reflecting sustained demand for the facility and continued strong interest in the game of golf on Cape Cod. Participation remained consistent across resident and non-resident play, daily fee golfers, annual pass holders, and organized events.

Rates & Fees

To address rising operational and maintenance costs while continuing to provide value to golfers, the Town Select Board approved several modest rate adjustments for the 2025 season:

- A \$5 increase to all in-season greens fees through twilight, which continued to include a complimentary warm-up basket
- A \$1 increase to all golf cart fees
- A \$2 increase to small and large driving range buckets
- Introduction of a new \$5 “warm-up bucket” option on the driving range, offering golfers a convenient and affordable pre-round option

Annual pass pricing remained unchanged across all categories except for the Adult Non-Resident Annual Pass, which increased by \$100 to a total of \$1,360. This represented the only annual pass rate increase for the 2025 season.

Annual Pass Sales

Annual pass sales remained strong in 2025, underscoring Cranberry Valley’s value to both residents and repeat non-resident customers:

- **Harwich Resident:** 768
- **Non-Resident:** 333
- **Junior:** 94
- **Young Adult:** 54
- **Collegiate:** 58

Total Annual Passes Sold: 1,307

The continued strength of resident and junior participation reflects the course's accessibility and importance as a recreational resource for the Harwich community.

Financial Performance

The golf department achieved another high-water mark in 2025, generating total General Fund revenues of \$2,375,969. This represents continued growth and financial stability for the department.

Major revenue categories included:

- **Greens Fees:** \$864,761
- **Cart Fees:** \$269,344
- **Annual Pass Sales:** \$640,027
- **Non-Resident Annual Pass Sales:** \$400,252
- **Driving Range:** \$154,087

Strong daily play, steady annual pass sales, tournament activity, and driving range usage all contributed to the department's overall financial success.

Capital Projects & Long-Term Planning

At the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved funding for a \$2.5 million irrigation system upgrade, a critical infrastructure improvement included in the Town's five-year Capital Plan. The Select Board awarded the project contract in November 2025, and construction began in December.

The irrigation upgrade represents a significant investment in the long-term health, playability, and sustainability of Cranberry Valley Golf Course.

Additional golf department projects included on the Town's Capital Plan are:

- FY29: Bunker Renovation Project
- FY30: Original Maintenance Building Replacement

The golf department continues to fund all capital projects and associated debt obligations entirely through the Golf Receipts Reserve Fund, ensuring that golf operations and improvements are self-supported and do not rely on the Town's tax levy.

Tournaments, Events & Community Engagement

The 2025 tournament schedule at Cranberry Valley Golf Course was exceptionally active, hosting over 30 tournaments and organized events throughout the season. These events supported competitive golf, youth development, charitable fundraising, and pass holder engagement.

Notable tournament highlights included:

Mass Golf Association Events

- Spring Team Championship
- Fall Cup
- Men's Cup
- Men's Amateur Qualifier
- Major Event: Mass Golf Fall Cup Championship

High School Events

- Cape Cod School Girl Championship
- Cape Cod High School JV Cup

Junior Golf Events

- Cape Cod Junior Golf Association tournaments
- New England PGA (NEPGA) Junior Tour events
- Chapter home course for The First Tee of Massachusetts
- PGA Junior League matches and programming

Pass Holder & Member Events

- Association Member/Member and Member/Guest tournaments
- Cranberry Cup and Solheim Cup competitions
- Men's and Women's Club Championships

Local Fundraisers & Community Events

- Tournaments benefiting the Harwich Fire Association
- Events supporting the Salute Military Golf Association
- Numerous outings for local organizations, many incorporating charitable fundraising through closest-to-the-pin contests and similar initiatives

These events reinforce Cranberry Valley's role as a regional golf destination and a valuable community asset, supporting youth golf, high school athletics, charitable causes, and organized competition.

Conclusion

Cranberry Valley Golf Course concluded the 2025 season in a position of strength, marked by record-setting revenues, consistent participation, and meaningful progress toward long-term capital improvements. The golf department remains committed to delivering a high-quality public golf experience, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and ensuring the continued success and sustainability of the facility for the Town of Harwich.

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Greer
Director of Golf
Cranberry Valley Golf Course

Report of the **Harwich Cultural Council**



Funding Our Creative Community

The Harwich Cultural Council (HCC) is a town-appointed committee dedicated to enriching the cultural lives of Harwich residents. One of 329 local cultural councils across the Commonwealth, HCC allocates grant funding for community-based projects and provides ticket subsidies for students and seniors to access theatres, museums, and educational venues in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

HCC is funded annually through support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and the Town of Harwich. Additional funding from HCC fundraising efforts and private gifts provides discretionary support for programs, activities, and events that align with MCC and HCC criteria.

The Council is composed of up to nine members and currently includes seven, with two vacancies. The committee meets monthly on the second Thursday at 4:00 p.m. at the Harwich 204 Cultural Arts Municipal Building, 204 Sisson Road. The Council extends its gratitude to former Chair Bernadette Waystack for her leadership and service.

After careful review and evaluation of all proposals to ensure the greatest benefit to the community, the Harwich Cultural Council awarded funding to 22 applications in FY 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Strzepek, Chair

Report of the

Department of Cultural Affairs

The 204 Municipal Arts Building, Harwich Port Cultural District and Harwich Center Cultural District

The year 2025 was a great year for the Department of Cultural Affairs, with expanded program offerings, robust markets, and vibrant collaborative efforts we are pleased to see how the efforts of our contributors developed. The department remains busy, active, and focused on achieving new goals for 2026 and continue to look at new funding opportunities, new collaborative efforts as well as look ahead at various regional efforts underway.

Harwich Port Cultural District was pleased to yet again partner with the various organizations, businesses, and individuals within the district to offer our Summer Art Project that supports the Harwich Children's Center. For Summer 2025 we were so pleased to have joined efforts with a marketing agency that was able to add in online bidding. With over 15 seals available, the Harwich Port Cultural District and business partners raised over \$1,100 for the Children's Center. Other efforts in Harwich Port were to continually work on collaboration with our artist and creative community, providing marketing support for events such as Art in the Park, Pirates in the Port and various pop-up merchant events. We continue to strive towards new efforts with wayfinding and other marketing signs that can help benefit the creative local economy and our business partners within the district.

Harwich Center Cultural District had a great year with programs primarily an expanded Summer Concert Series at Brooks Park. For Summer 2025 we offered 10 Free Concerts to the community. All held on Monday evenings in Brooks Park. Various acts from Jazz, Blues, to Americana, and Bluegrass we even threw in a little rock. Audiences ranged from 75 to upwards of 125 for some performances. An Evening at the 204 series began in winter 2025 where we offered and offshoot of the summer concert series providing community residents an opportunity to see live music at no cost.

The 204 Cultural Arts Municipal Building provided new programs as well as some returning favorites from the community. We welcomed some new instructors that offered card making classes, scarf dying, blanket making, quilted jackets, and much more. Our artist studios remain at full capacity with the current cycle of license agreements for resubmissions in 2026. The 204 also hosted the Farmers Market for the Summer of 2025 on the front lawn where we provided expanded produce options as well as more locally sourced food, baked goods, and creative products for skin, hair,

home and more. The Department also held their signature events that were well received and visited. With that our collaborative efforts remained strong between the Department of Health, Conservation, and Youth & Family Services. Through the People's Garden, programs, and special events the 204 was pleased to provide space for our collaborative Departments. The Gymnasium at the 204 remains to be used 85% by the Recreation Department for program and the other time through rentals and our Cape Cod Municipal Health Group Wellness Program. We welcomed two new productions to our theater where we witnessed community theater at its best! Lastly, the facility was also home to several public meetings for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Outside of programming the kitchen at the facility was brought up to speed, cleaned, and certified to be used for the Culinary Arts Programs. All new programs in this space were set to launch in January 2026.

The Department of Cultural Affairs joined efforts with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to work on a special yearlong project for Adapting Public Buildings for Creative Use. This project consisted of two presentations at the Plymouth and Cape Cod Region Awards Receptions, Several interviews, a Video Recording, Blog, and detailed report of the use of the facility on Sisson Road. The material was further presented to the Massachusetts Municipal Association and the New England Planning Association. The Director, Kara Mewhinney served as the liaison and presented the findings and speeches to crowds. These conversations continue and the learning labs sessions are coming forth in 2026. Furthermore, the Department continues to strengthen the regional efforts of providing a stronger relationship between all the Cultural Districts on the Cape & Islands. This has been through networking and events concepts that will bring the region together.

Our efforts in the Cultural Districts as well as programs and special events at the Cultural Arts Center are provided through Grant Funding graciously through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Since 2023 when Harwich received its formal designation, we were privileged to have been awarded annual funds through grants to support our program and marketing efforts. This however will be taking a change for 2026 as the Massachusetts Cultural Council has changed the grant funding opportunities available. Cultural Districts will no longer receive annual funds to support their programs. This is an impact from federal funding cuts. While we know this changes our landscape a bit when it comes to our programs and events the Department is working to find new opportunities and finding new approaches to how we can handle our programs and events moving forward. We want to provide more sustainability as a district and still provide the community with the programs and events they have come to love and look forward to.

The Department of Cultural Affairs extends many thanks to the residents, community members, our collaborators and visitors that come to our events, programs, and supports in many ways. A special thanks and appreciation to all the artists and creatives that make up the creative community in town. The Department is constantly working day in and day out to work towards new programs, new events, and engage the community in many ways. We have future goals slated for more regional events along with public art installations, as well as furthering more focused and impactful events based on town needs and community feedback. We welcome any ideas and suggestions as always. If you haven't been to the facility, we welcome all to come for a tour or to see us during one of the Open Studio events at the 204 facility. The Department Office is located at 204 Sisson Road. All are welcome!

Respectfully Submitted

Director of Cultural Affairs, Kara Mewhinney

Report of the **Health Department**

The 2025 annual report is respectfully submitted to the Select Board and the residents of Harwich as a summary of events, accomplishments, and gratitude to staff for yet another remarkable year in public health. The Health Department is vital in maintaining a safe and sanitary community through the incorporation of Federal, State and Local laws and regulations. As the needs of the job shift frequently, we adjust accordingly and continue to provide excellent service. The Health Department is responsible for the protection of food supply through inspections of restaurants and other food establishments, inspections and permitting of septic systems, disease control including timely reporting and response to communicable diseases, inspection of pools, beaches, and camps; enforcing no-smoking laws; developing, testing, and building awareness of emergency preparedness plans for a wide range of hazards; as well as a wide array of other responsibilities.

In 2025, the Health Department continued to work collaboratively with Amy Usowski the Towns Conservation Agent and her Department, Carolyn Carey, Harwich Community Center Director, Cyndi Williams of the Harwich Chamber of Commerce, Kara Mewhinney of the 204 Municipal and Cultural Building, various members of Harwich DPW on our food insecurity initiatives to help our residents combat growing needs via The People's Garden and The People's Fridge. Special programming in the garden was hosted by Ashley Symington, Director of Youth and Family Services with the assistance of Teddy.

The People's Fridge is centrally located inside of the Harwich Community Center and is stocked periodically through grant funding secured by the Health Department and donations collected through our non-profit partner the Harwich Chamber of Commerce. Grants and food donations for 2025 came from Shaw's Supermarket. Our food donations were provided by Food for Kids, Family Table Collaborative, the Barnstable County Extension and produce grown from the Peoples Garden as well as donations from other Community Gardeners.

The Health Department has had the privilege to have an AmeriCorps service member for the second year, Lillian Pogany, who is building the educational sessions for the 2026 garden season and helping to plant and manage the garden under the direction of our Senior Health Agent Terri Gaurino. In 2025 grant funding for The People's Garden was secured through Cape Cod 5.

The Health Department and Conservation Department teamed up to host the 2nd Annual Health and Environment Fair. The Health and Environment Fair was held at the 204 Municipal and Cultural Building, hosted over 40 various health and environmental focused vendors, partnered with the Conservation event Tour de Trash. We hope to continue and grow this event in 2026.

We continue to promote education and training for our establishments using the FDA Food Standards Grant program. Retail Program Standards represent an important component of a comprehensive strategic approach to help ensure the safety and security of the food supply at the retail level.

REVENUE

The following is a summary of statistics and programs overseen by the Health Director. The following permits were reviewed and issued by the Health Department:

TYPE	CURRENT FEE	#ISSUED
Food Service Establishments	\$10-250	107
Hotels/Motels	\$75	6
Rubbish Haulers	\$125	9
Swimming Pools	\$125	27
Disposal Works Installers	\$125	76
Manufacture of Frozen Dessert	\$50	5
Milk & Cream	\$10	17
Funeral Directors	\$50	2
Mobile Food	\$100	13
Event Food Permits	\$50	52
Massage Therapist	\$50	1
Massage Establishment	\$100	1
Septage Carriers	\$125	22
Catering	\$100	2
Well Permits	\$60	16
Sale of Tobacco	\$75	14
Recreational Camps	\$75	3
Stable Permits	\$30-50	26
Sewage Construction Permits	various	166
Real Estate Transfer Inspections	\$110	273
Test Holes/Perc Tests	\$110/lot test holes	83
Trench Permits	\$30	81

Beach Operators	\$50	39
Title 5 Inspector Registrations	\$125	22
Utility Installers	\$125	21
Board of Health Hearing Filing	\$125	20
In-House Variance Filing	\$125	10
Waivers	\$125	7

The total 2025 department revenue came to \$115,617.00

Projects and Program Development

Technical Assistance to the Board of Health

The Health Director prepared 15 cases for discussion and/or hearings presented at 11 Board of Health regularly scheduled meetings, for a total of 11 Board of Health meetings held in 2025.

- 11 Public Hearings were held
- 4 Work Sessions were held
- 7 Presentations were held during Public Comment
- 1 Temporary Food Event permit application fee (\$50.00) was waived
- Various discussions were held with regards to Regulations for Private Wells
- Various discussions were held with regards to the Board of Health Bedroom Definition
- 2 Variances were reviewed in accordance with 105 CMR 590:00 Chapter 6 Section 501.115 Paragraph A
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with 105 CMR 590.000 State Sanitary Code Chapter X
- 1 Filing was submitted and reviewed for approval of a Memory Garden
- 1 Filing was submitted and reviewed for Reconsideration of Existing Variance Conditions
- 1 Filing was submitted and reviewed for Local Board of Health Approval for Septic System Design > 2000 gallons per day
- 1 Filing was submitted and reviewed for Preliminary Determination of Required Nitrogen Credit Land
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.203
- 5 Variances were reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.211
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.214

- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.223
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.227
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Title 5 310 CMR 15.229
- 1 Variance was reviewed in accordance with Town of Harwich Regulation 1.201
- 3 Variances were reviewed in accordance with Town of Harwich Regulation 1.210

Community Development Programs

Project Review:

- 113 Disposal Works Construction Permits for the installation of septic systems
- 50 Sewer Connection Permits
- 238 Septic System Inspection Reports for Real Estate Transfer
- 57 Board of Appeals projects
- 37 Planning Board projects
- 239 Building permits
- 25 Well permits
- 88 Trench permits

The Health Department is one prong of the Community Development Team, who meet every Thursday morning. The team met with many applicants in person to review proposed projects and answer general questions. These meetings are a great opportunity for both the Town and the Public to work openly and efficiently together.

Community Sanitation Programs

Bathing Beach Program

The results of water quality sampling from the 2025 bathing season indicate great water quality for beaches on Cape Cod. Beaches were a safe, outdoor activity for the public during the summer. A significant amount of regional effort goes into this program through the cooperation of the Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment. The County provides staffing and obtains funding for all the town's marine beach monitoring and provides freshwater monitoring at no charge.

Bathing Beaches are mandated to be tested for two different types of fecal bacteria: Enterococcus in marine water, and E. coli in fresh water. These two bacteria are considered indicator organisms, which, as their name implies, are used to "indicate" the presence of conditions that have the potential to cause illness. Their increased presence in recreational

waters suggests that other harmful organisms and viruses might be present. Barnstable County utilizes seasonal beach sampler/analysts to collect and analyze weekly beach water samples for these indicator species on behalf of the Harwich Health Department.

In 2025, the Health Department had sampled 22 public beaches owned and operated by the Town, 7 of which being freshwater bodies and 15 marine bathing beaches. A total of 9 semi-public beaches were sampled, 4 of which being freshwater bodies and 5 marine bathing beaches. Of the Town's 354 water samples, 7 exceedances of bacteriological water quality standards of the State Sanitary Code were reported over the course of the season. Each exceedance was re-tested and passed the next day.

The Cape Cod & Islands Health Agent's Coalition and Barnstable County Health Department continues to work together to address growing concerns regarding Cyanobacteria. Through this collaboration we were able to obtain uniform signage for cyanobacteria public health advisories and closures, in addition to how to better communicate these advisories to the community. The Health, Conservation, and Natural Resource Departments continue to work with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) for continued cyanobacteria monitoring in Harwich of freshwater bodies.

Food Program

In 2025, the Harwich Health Department maintained its strong commitment to protecting public health by ensuring safe, compliant, and enjoyable food experiences for residents and visitors. Over the course of the year, the Department issued 138 food service permits — including 13 permits for food trucks — and conducted more than 215 inspections of food establishments throughout Town, verifying compliance with state and local food safety regulations. Additionally, 64 event food permits were issued to support safe food service at community gatherings and festivals. The Department also participated in collaborative regional efforts such as the Barnstable County Regional Annual Mobile Food Inspection Program, which provided streamlined inspections for food trucks and mobile vendors across neighboring towns, promoting consistent food safety standards across Cape Cod.

The Health Department also played an active role at the 204 Farmers Market, licensing all participating food vendors and ensuring safe food practices. Each week, the Department set up their own tent called "Health Beats at the 204", featuring a rotating schedule of health topics relevant to the community, providing residents with opportunities to learn about nutrition, chronic disease prevention, food safety, and other public health initiatives in an engaging, interactive format.

Looking forward, the Department will continue to emphasize excellence in food safety, expand community education initiatives, and support programs that increase access to healthy food while reinforcing public health across Harwich.

Recreational Camps for Children

The Health Department ensures that all recreational camps for children in Harwich operate under strict health and safety standards. In 2025, three camps submitted applications: Pleasant Bay Community Boating, Nike Lacrosse Girls Camp, and Seacoast United Summer Soccer Camp. Pre-operational inspections were conducted at each camp in coordination with Camp Directors. Licensed camps are required to complete background checks for counselors and volunteers, maintain appropriate camper-to-counselor ratios, meet medical and vaccination requirements, and have emergency contingency plans in place. Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to verify that the summer camps their children attend are licensed by the Town.

Swimming Pool Program

All public and semi-public swimming pools in Harwich are required to obtain a permit from the Health Department. In 2025, 15 facilities were permitted, encompassing a total of 26 swimming pools and spas. Inspections were conducted across all facilities to ensure adherence to health and safety standards, reinforcing public trust in local recreational amenities.

Stables and Animal Health

Harwich regulations require the inspection and permitting of all stables to ensure safe and healthy conditions for horses. In 2025, 34 stables, both residential and commercial, were permitted, overseeing 194 horses and donkeys. Animal Control Officer Jennifer Harrington conducted inspections covering manure management, stall and paddock cleanliness, vector control, animal health, and safe water supply. The Health Department looks forward to continued collaboration with Officer Harrington to maintain high standards of animal health and welfare in the Town.

Looking forward, the Department aims to strengthen regional collaborations, increase public outreach, and recognize excellence in food service and community health initiatives through programs such as the Food Excellence Awards for Harwich food establishments. These efforts reflect a continued commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and vibrant community for all who live in and visit Harwich.

Weights & Measures

The Town of Barnstable continues to serve in the capacity of sealer of weights and measures for Harwich to fulfill all our required device

certification and measuring, file annual reports with the Commonwealth, and respond to consumer complaints. This program is operated at no cost to the Town in exchange for the device inspection fees being collected by the Town of Barnstable.

Community Health Programs

Nursing Programs

The Health Director manages the service contract with the Visiting Nurses Association. This contract covers maternal-child care visits for first time mothers; communicable disease investigation and reporting requirements; and monthly childhood immunization clinics for uninsured residents and our public vaccination clinic. My sincere thanks go out to the entire program for their assistance.

The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment Public Health Nursing Division assisted with our employee flu clinic. My sincere thanks go out to the entire program for their assistance.

As always, our Town Nurse, Sue Jusell, has been an immense help all year round. I would like to thank her for continued coordination and support.

A very special thank you goes out to both our Public Safety and Public Works departments for always being available to assist in any way possible with all our clinics. The amazing services that were provided to residents would not have happened without their continued support and assistance.

Emergency Management

The County and Health Agents Collation decided to follow recommendations from the State and moved away from using the Emergency Nurse Planners. While the contracts were not renewed, Barnstable County continues to manage all PHEP deliverables internally. This includes coordinating the monthly Health Agents Coalition meetings, providing technical assistance, and delivering required training and exercises—such as the regional tabletop exercise conducted in October.

As the County works toward hiring a full-time staff member dedicated to managing this program, the Emergency Preparedness Division has been covering all associated duties to ensure continuity of service and support to our communities. The County also has an AmeriCorps member working on looking at all the EDS plans and they intend to re-write them all and submit them to the agents for approval. Most have crept in size significantly and all are out of date.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Fire Chief David LeBlanc, Deputy Fire Chief Craig Thornton, Police Chief Kevin Considine, Deputy Police Chief Adam Hutton, and their entire departments. Harwich is one of the few towns who always consistently work well as a team.

Comprehensive Wastewater Management

We continue to monitor the progress of the residents who have not connected to Phase two of the sewer project. Phase three has begun construction, and the Wastewater Department will continue to update residents of important details surrounding this project. The Health Department will continue to review the sewer connection permits and ensure the abandonment of the septic systems comply with 310 CMR 15.00 The State Environmental Code.

CLOSING REMARKS

It has been a pleasure so far to continue to work with my peers and community members to learn more about the programs currently offered and how we may be able to expand our services to meet the needs for the residents of the Town of Harwich.

Meredith Ballinger has moved on to the Town of Orleans to become the Health Director for that community. She was an asset to the Harwich Health Department; she was an excellent sounding board and helped us form valuable working relationships with other Health Departments and County members. We welcomed Terri Gaurino as our new Senior Health Agent. Terri brings much experience from her time as Health Director in Bourne. Terri's transition into the department was easy and she was able to hit the ground running. She has extensive knowledge of state codes and great attention to detail; she has quickly become an invaluable asset to our team. Her professionalism, strong work ethic, and commitment to public health have already made a positive impact, and we are excited to see her continue to strengthen and enhance our department's services.

Our Health Inspector Jennifer Singleton has been taking the lead on the FDA Food Standards. Through this program Jennifer's goal is to build stronger education and training opportunities for our food establishments as well as engage the community in food safety education. Her desire to learn and grow professionally makes her a leader in this field, we are lucky to have her. Jennifer has coordinated multiple food safety trainings including a shellfish seminar for local restaurants and health agents, a cooking for diabetes workshop, and a service animal education workshop for our restaurants.

Executive Assistant Stephanie Johnson continues to master her role in the Health Department. She adapts quickly to change and always goes the extra mile for anyone needing assistance from her. She has built up our social media presence which has been a valuable tool in sharing important public health messaging. Stephanie is a critical member of our team, and we are grateful for her.

The Health Department will continue our long-standing tradition of exceptional service based on trust, transparency, consistency, and hard work. I wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy year ahead.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carrie Schoener, R.S., C.H.O., Health Director
Terri Gaurino, Senior Health Agent
Jennifer Singleton, Health Inspector
Stephanie Johnson, Executive Assistant

Report of the
**Harwich Recreation & Youth
Department – Recreation & Youth
Commission**

The Town of Harwich Recreation & Youth Department and Commission has had a very productive and active year of programming and town services. We continue to offer a busy and varied slate of Recreation programming for youth, adults and seniors for the Town of Harwich. We had a fully staffed, and successful, summer beach season, along with swim lessons, day camp, tennis lessons and various other activities for all ages. We continue to work on town projects on Recreation jurisdiction properties including the installation of a new infield at the Brooks Park Baseball Field, a shade structure at the Veterans Memorial Field Complex, and new dugouts at the Potter Field Softball Field. We are currently working on securing funding through the Community Preservation Committee to fund all new irrigation systems for Veterans Memorial Field Complex, Potter Softball Field, and Senior Memorial Softball Field.

We continue to use both the Community Center gymnasium and 204 Gymnasium for a variety of youth and adult programming. These facilities have proven to be an invaluable resource to the Department and it's day to day program functioning.

We look forward to the upcoming year and the continued expansion of programming for all, enhancement of facilities, and the promotion of wellness for the citizens of the Town of Harwich.

Adult/Senior Programs Offered:

Adult Volleyball	204 Indoor Pickle Ball
Over 55 Basketball	Brooks Park Outdoor Pickle Ball
Pickle Ball Instructional Classes	Adult Table Tennis
Senior Walking Club	Adult Billiards League
Senior Sit and Fit Class	Overcoming Obstacles Adult Fitness
Adult 204 Open Gym	Adult Basketball League

Other Programs Sponsored:

Community Center Easter Event	Harwich After-Prom Event
Community Center Halloween Event	Harwich Town Band

**The following deposits were made into the
Town's General Fund this year:**

Summer Recreation Program Fees	\$11,000	Even with 2024
Daily Beach Parking Passes	\$94,840	14% increase from 2024
Beach Sticker Sales	\$357,935	2% increase from 2024
General Fund Program Fees	\$13,000	1% increase from 2024
Food Vendors for Town Beaches	\$11,800	11% decrease from 2024
Beach Parking Violations	\$23,550	42% decrease from 2024
Fishing Tournaments	\$2,000	even with 2024
Total	\$514,125	1% increase from 2024

The Recreation Department is responsible for the Town beaches, parks, ball fields, and memorial squares. We thank the Harwich Mariners for all they have done to facilitate Whitehouse Field, one of our Town's finest assets, as well as, the Cape Cod Senior Softball League for their continued contributions to Potter, Bassett, and Senior Memorial Fields.

All of our Summer Seasonal Staff is American Red Cross certified in CPR and First Aid for the Professional Rescuer. Lifeguards are also fully certified in Lifeguard Training. Our Water Safety Instructors have both Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructor Certifications. Our staff consisted of the following seasonal employees: Beach Supervisor, Assistant Beach Supervisors, Waterfront Director, Lifeguards, Gate Attendants, and Parking Enforcement Officers. Through the Recreation Department Revolving Fund we also employ Playground Camp Director and Playground Camp Counselors. We would like to thank all of our summer staff for their hard work and dedication to a safe and successful season again this past year.

Also many thanks to the Community Center Staff who work tirelessly every day to make the building a success: Community Center Director, Carolyn Carey; Channel 8 Director, Jamie Goodwin; Council on Aging Director, Julie Witas; and all their staff members for their continuous contribution and cooperation with all of our programs. We would also like to thank 204 Director Kara Mewhinney for her aid in making the Recreation Department a success. Thank you to the Community Center custodians and Facilities Director, Sean Libby for keeping the building a safe and clean environment for the Recreation Department to function within.

We would like to thank the following people for their continued support: Town Administrator, Anthony Schiavi; and his Administrative Assistants. Thank you to the Harwich Highway Department, Harwich Selectboard, Harwich Police Department, Harwich Fire Department, the Harwich Finance Team, and all other Town Departments that are essential for our day to day and long term operations.

Some other groups that have made significant contributions to the Recreation Department include: Community Preservation Committee, Harwich Town Band, Friends of the Harwich Youth, Friends of the Harwich Community Center, Friends of the Council on Aging, Harwich Garden Club, Harwich Evening Women's Club, Harwich Chamber of Commerce, Monomoy School District, the Harwich Youth Counselor, and the Harwich Pickle Ball Group.

We extend our thanks to all of the Recreation Staff: Director, Eric Beebe; Elaine Banta, Phyllis Cudmore, and John Losey. We appreciate the work of all of our part-time and seasonal employees and volunteers that make our programs run smoothly.

Finally, we thank the citizens of Harwich who continue to support the many programs provided annually. Without their commitment to our activities and services provided, we would not be able to continue to provide the quantity, variety, and high level of recreational opportunities to the youth and adults of the Harwich Community.

Respectfully Submitted by,

The Harwich Recreation & Youth Commission
Vahan Khachadoorian
John Mahan
David Nixon
Phyllis Thomasson
Leah Mercurio
Brian Wentworth

Report of the **Harwich Town Band**



What an amazing year for the Harwich Town Band. Since its inception in 1975, the band has been inspiring melophiles of all ages both on and off the stage. This year marked the band's 50th anniversary. From the middle of winter to the late fall, the band and its fans celebrated five decades of musical merriment.

As always, the band started their rehearsal period in early March. There is nothing like the hustle and bustle that happens while the band gathers every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm at the Harwich Community Center. The silence in the multi-purpose room quickly turns chaotic with the chatter of excited musicians, the opening of instrument cases, and the inevitable tuning notes. Then suddenly, as the conductor raises the baton, the discordance changes to an ear-pleasing warm-up scale as each rehearsal begins.

After three months of preparation, the band played at the Memorial Day Ceremony followed by a performance at the Cape Cod Technical High School graduation. There is something about live music at these events that seem to make them even more special.

With a few more rehearsals under their belt, the band started its golden anniversary in historic Brooks Park on June 24th. The music list included a variety of songs including "Strike Up the Band", "The Music Man" and a wonderful new medley called "The Three Tenors" skillfully played by Lisa McMahon, Vinnie Stamboni, and Corey Russo on their tenor saxophones.

The following week proved to be one of the most celebratory times in the band's history. On Monday, June 30th, the band was asked to play a patriotic concert at the Dennis Village Green on Route 6A. The next day, the Town of Harwich Board of Select Persons declared Tuesday, July 1st as "Harwich Town Band Day" and presented the band with a signed proclamation. Songs at that concert included "Birthday" by Paul McCartney

and John Lennon, “This Land is Your Land” by Woodie Guthrie and of course the band’s theme song, “Harwich is the Town for Me” by Milton Adolphus.

The summer season continued with all ten scheduled concerts. The band was joined by the Harwich Women’s Chorus led by Marcia Hempel for a few songs including “Waltzing Matilda.” The newly formed Harwich Town Band Singers joined the band in a Beatles sing-along medley called “Can’t Buy Me Love.” And for a special themed performance, the band played its first annual “Christmas in July” concert to the delight of the listeners. Some of the audience attended wearing holiday sweaters and pajamas to make it even more festive.

With a short pause after Labor Day, the band regrouped in late September to prepare for Veteran’s Day in Evergreen Cemetery. What an honor it is to play at this heartfelt event. In December, we played at the Harwich Port Christmas Stroll at the TD Bank, which was followed by a full house performance at the community center on December 9th for our 50th Annual Holiday Concert. What a joy it is to play for so many townsfolk. Songs like “Sleigh Ride” with Linda Hladek on the jingle tree and Michael Hayes as our “equinalist.” As well, the band played exciting new pieces called “Coventry Groove” and “Jungle (not jingle) Fantasy” featuring our all-female percussion and flute sections. Thank you to Rhonda Paradis and crew for organizing and serving refreshments at intermission. A true holiday tradition.

Peter de Bakker continued as the Harwich Town Band president, Cynthia Maritato Shick as secretary and Del Borah as treasurer. Vincent Stamboni continued the organization of the band’s social media. Tom Jahnke, the fourth full time musical director of the band completed his sixth year as conductor.

Special thanks to The Harwich Channel and Jim Fulton for filming our performances and putting them on the Harwich cable channel and YouTube. Rehearsals for the 2026 concert season begin on March 3. The summer season is scheduled to begin on June 30th and end on September 1st.



The Board of Directors and the Harwich Town Band would like to express their appreciation to:

- Eric Beebe and the Harwich Recreation and Youth Commission
- Carolyn Carey and the Harwich Community Center Staff
- The Harwich Department of Public Works
- Harwich Town Administrator, Joseph Powers
- The Harwich Board of Select Persons
- Jim Fulton and The Harwich Channel
- The Harwich Cultural Council
- Cyndi Williams and The Harwich Chamber of Commerce

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Jahnke, Conductor
and the Harwich Town Band Board of Directors

Report of the **Harwich Youth and Family Services**

The focus of Youth and Family Services throughout 2025 was building programs for prevention and increasing participation in programs. Individual counseling for Harwich youth up to age twenty-four and parent/grandparent/caregiver coaching were provided throughout the year. Additionally, support in helping families connect to area resources and referring for long-term counseling as well as referral for counseling for non-Harwich residents was provided.

A total of twenty-two programs were offered throughout the calendar year for all ages. This included prevention-focused programs such as Girl Power!, Boys Belong!, and Resiliency Builders as well as support groups such as Moving on Up! to help with the transition from elementary school to middle school. Community Knit Together was a program offering an opportunity for community members of all ages to connect through a shared enjoyment of crafting with yarn. Two summer programs designed to promote positive connections with families were run: the first annual Connect and Grow! Storytelling Festival occurred in July and Teddy's Bear Picnic was in August. Donations of new stuffed animals were collected and provided to Harwich Police Department for officers to have available to give out to children. All programs have continued to be offered to participants at no cost to them. Over the course of 2025, fifty-three people participated in programs offered.

Management for the Preschool Family Support Program shifted from the Council on Aging to Youth and Family Services beginning with this school year. The Preschool Family Support Program provides tuition vouchers for preschool to Harwich families with children who turned three or four by August 31 and were enrolled in preschools provided by a state licensed provider. A total of sixty-three children were enrolled in the program and were provided initial awards of \$2500. Additional awards will be made at the beginning of 2026.

A total number of thirty individual clients received individual counseling. A total number of 264 sessions were scheduled with 213 held (fifty-one were cancellations or no shows). Clients ranged from age five to eighteen and received support for ADHD, anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, and as a Diversion Program requirement.

Informational tables were provided at the Health Department's Health and Environmental Wellness Fair in April, The 204 Market on Thursdays throughout the summer months, Barks in the Park in September, curriculum nights at Harwich Elementary and Monomoy Regional High School, and at the Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Fair in October. Activities on mental health were provided to Monomoy Regional Middle School health classes and a professional development workshop on being Tech Savvy and Wellness Ready was provided to Monomoy Regional School District staff members during their December professional development day. Information on services and on youth mental health was presented at the January Harwich Women's Club luncheon.

Harwich Youth and Family Services is thankful for the support of the community including members who volunteered as mentors for Girl Power! and Boys Belong! as well as supporting program efforts. We are grateful for continued partnerships with Monomoy Regional Schools, the Council on Aging, the Health Department, Cultural Affairs, the Harwich Police Department, the Harwich Fire Department, the Community Center, and Brooks Free Library. Our programming would not be possible without the available community spaces and support at Brooks Free Library, the Community Center, and The 204. Most importantly, we extend our profound thanks to the youth and families who have entrusted us with their care and have collaborated with us on their journeys of mental health and wellness. We are honored to be a part of these processes!

Report of the **Harwich Affordable Housing Trust**

Trustee Members:

- Larry Ballantine
- Brendan Lowney
- Robert Spencer
- Claudia Williams
- Jeff Handler, Select Board member.

In May 2019, Town Meeting approved the creation of the Harwich Affordable Housing Trust (HAHT), per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 55C (MGL c.44 s.55C). The purpose of Trust is to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in Harwich for the benefit of local and moderate-income households as defined by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC).

The Board of Trustees, which oversees the Trust, is comprised of five appointed community members, including at least one member of the Select Board and the Town Administrator or designee. Harwich General Bylaws Chapter 140 grants the HAHT all powers and authority outlined in MGL c.44 s.55C, including acquiring, selling, and leasing real property.

The Trust is funded by:

- Community Preservation Act which is primary source of funding
- Harwich cell tower revenues
- Short-term Rental Taxes – 25% directed to affordable housing.
- Any specific town warrant article
- Donations

The Trust has adopted a formal application in which the process begins with a letter of intent followed by detailed conceptual plans, benefits to Harwich and financial information including a request for Trust funds. The Trust evaluates the request to determine the degree the request meets its priorities and available funds.

In 2025 the Trust helped to fund:

- 456 Queen Anne Road Development to build 60 affordable rental units containing 90 bedrooms. A proposal by Pennrose was accepted, draft plans proposed, regulatory and public reviews started. The Trust purchased the land in 2021 which will be leased

to the developer. Funding commitment will be for \$500,000; the developer will pay the Trust \$800,000 upon completion and signature of the lease.

- 203 Bank Street Apartments (Old Fire Station) consisting of three 1-bedroom apartments have been completed. Tenant lottery underway. Trust provided \$486,000.
- 5-Bells Neck Development; \$635,000 was provided to build two 1-bedroom and one 2-bedroom apartments in a project of ten total apartments. Tenant lottery has been nearly completed.
- The Trust has committed \$150,000 to support the conduct of a developmental analysis of a property at 52 Route 28, W. Harwich
- Rental Assistance: The Trust Voted to commit \$150,000 (\$50,000/year for three years) to assist renters needing help. The program was contracted to the Homeless Prevention Council to market, manage and provide case management services. Assistance well received as ~ ten applications have been approved.

In accordance with the Trust mission, Trustee members continue to explore how best to help address housing needs in our community.

Any and all suggestions are welcomed.

Report of the **Harwich Housing Committee**

The Housing Committee became whole this year, with 5 members. The committee spent the past year assisting the Affordable Housing Trust, the Housing Advocate, and various developers and townspeople, while researching housing-related issues that will be of continued assistance as Harwich works towards its housing goals.

Committee members helped the Housing Advocate and the Affordable Housing Trust study various housing issues, including the HOMES Act, the Seasonal Communities Act, and other state and local tools. They also assisted the Housing Advocate with Housing Fairs and any other needs. They also supported local efforts, residents, and developers through communications, research, and advocacy.

Among the topics the committee worked on were ADUs and alternative wastewater systems, Rental Assistance Programs, maintaining the SHI List, zoning changes, Affordable Housing v. Attainable Housing, Buy-down programs, rehabbing existing structures, the 2nd Story Program, alternative funding resources, the Barnstable County Regional Housing Strategy, and the Harwich Housing Production plan.

Members attended multiple meetings dedicated to housing held by the CDP, the Cape Cod Commission, Housing to Protect Cape Cod, the Cape and Islands Municipal Leaders Association, The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, CHAPA, and other local, state, and Federal agencies.

In 2026 the committee will focus primarily on finding additional funding sources, especially in ways to create Attainable Housing for municipal employees and other workers. We will further study the use of the Homes Act, the Seasonal Communities Act, a Transfer Fee Tax, creating and promoting zoning changes for Town Meeting approval, and continuing to support local projects. The committee will also focus more on Communications. Besides the Housing Fairs, the website, and attendance at local meetings, we want to find other ways to reach out to the public. As always, the committee will continue to assist the Select Board, the Housing Advocate, and the Affordable Housing Trust whenever asked.

The committee would like to thank Brianna Powell, The Affordable Housing Trust, and the Select Board for their support this past year and look forward to a successful 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Harder, Chair
Art Bodin, Vice Chair
Ellen Collins
Anthony Dimauro
Matthew Hemeon

PUBLIC SAFETY

Report of the **Building Department**

The mission of the Building Department is to protect the public's safety and welfare by providing up-to-date information and efficient, timely inspections for projects under construction. With a team of talented, dedicated inspectors and attentive, customer service-oriented staff, our goal is to consistently collaborate with our residents and builders, making Harwich flourish. In cooperation with other Town departments, we provide education and inspections to the public and business community, to ensure all buildings conform to the requirements of the Massachusetts State Building Codes, Massachusetts Architectural Access Board regulations, the Stretch Energy Code, FEMA regulations, and the Town of Harwich Zoning By-Laws.

2025 has seen a continued growth in the local economy. The department has issued over 4,478 permits and has conducted 5,890 inspections and a total of \$818,030.16 was collected in fees and returned to the Treasurer. Of that, 628 plumbing permits were issued, of which there were 909 inspections and the fees collected were \$61,230. 658 gas permits were issued, with 821 inspections and fees collected were \$44, 640, and there were 1136 electrical permits issued with 1880 inspections and fees collected were \$123,332. There were 57 Zoning Board of Appeals cases and 34 Historic District & Historic Commission cases, and the fees collected were \$31,370. Complaints were investigated and those in violation were sent notifications to comply with our by-law.

This department serves as a central location for online permitting. We have been using OpenGov software since 2023 and we continue to refine and coordinate the appropriate approvals between various departments involved. Building Officials are available to answer questions and provide zoning information to ensure that building and zoning activities are performed in compliance with various regulations, by-laws and building codes of both the Town of Harwich and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All inspectors are required to be licensed in their respective field and maintain certification through state approved curriculum. Building inspection requests are taken the day before by telephone between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00pm. Gas, plumbing and electrical inspection requests are taken the same day by telephone between 7:00am to 9:00am. The Building Department consists of 6 full-time positions and 5 part-time positions.

Since I've started with the Town of Harwich as the Building Commissioner in September, there have been a few new changes to our permit fee structure and the way our department runs.

A new building code was put into effect on July 1, 2025, which included more stringent regulations encompassing the stretch energy code, the FEMA flood zone requirements, and the building code. To better support our department, I've restructured our building permit fees to be based on cost of construction instead of square footage of area. This is a more accurate reflection of the time and effort involved to review a proposed project by Fire, Health, Conservation, Zoning, Planning, and the Building Department.

We have improved our recordkeeping when it comes to occupants of public buildings, in keeping with the Building Code, I now require life /safety inspection reports to be submitted before 110 inspections are scheduled.

In our aim to provide better public service and in keeping with DEA guidelines, we now require a hazardous material report to be submitted before we issue a demolition permit for structures built in 1978 or earlier. A hazardous material report identifies asbestos, mercury, lead, and any other hazardous materials that are found in a structure and identifies the chain of custody for abatement.

I've also streamlined the method of how to close out an older permit and streamlined the method for transferring a permit from one contractor to another.

Finally, I'd like to thank the dedicated staff and the volunteers who work very hard to ensure our departments operate smoothly. I'd also like to thank our Acting Town Administrator and the Select Board for their support, and in closing, I'd also like to thank the builders and residents in Town for entrusting the safety of their structures to our team.

Respectfully,

Eleanor C. MacKay AIA, MCBO
Building Commissioner

Report of the Harwich Fire Department

In 2025, the Harwich Fire Department responded to 4946 incidents. This is almost 14 calls for service per day. The department responds from two firehouses to provide coverage to the town, with nine firefighters assigned to each shift. Eight firefighters are required to be on duty at a time.

Some incidents can be managed by a single firehouse, while others require a response from both. With a routine ambulance call requiring three firefighters to transport, the department uses overtime and off-duty personnel to staff the firehouses for subsequent calls. This system is not unlike the call fire department that originally served Harwich, and while it works well, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain staffing throughout the shift due to a variety of factors. As a result, there are times when only two firefighters, sometimes one firefighter, remain in town to respond to additional calls.

Personnel

The Administration of the Fire Department consists of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Fire Inspector, EMS Officer, and the Assistant to the Fire Chief. These five positions are responsible for all the requirements to keep the fire department operating as well as all the inspections required by State regulations.

Administration	
Chief of Department	David LeBlanc
Deputy Chief	Craig Thornton
Fire Prevention Officer	Brandon Ferro
EMS Officer	Eric Diamond
Assistant to the Fire Chief	Marissa El Sehrawey

There are four shifts of nine personnel each to staff the Town’s firehouses twenty-four hours a day. Each shift has a Captain assigned to headquarters who is responsible for Department operations for each 24-hour shift. A Lieutenant oversees the East Harwich Firehouse and seven firefighters. There is a minimum of four paramedics assigned to each shift.

While each shift is assigned nine personnel, the minimum number of personnel required by policy is eight. This allows for one firefighter or officer to be off each shift without requiring the vacancy to be filled by overtime.

July 1, 2025, Roster

	Shift Personnel					
	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
	Group 4					
Captain	Donald Parker		Leighanne Smith	P	Joseph Mayo	Justin White P
Lieutenant	Brad Willis	P	Scott Tyldesley	P	Ryan Edwards	Joseph Rego
OIC	Adam Laplante	P	Josh Ford	P	Eric Diamond	P Eric Elliott P
Firefighter	Kevin Duquette		James Clarke		Ryan Avery	P Dan SanGiovanni P
Firefighter	William Schneeweiss	P	James Sandino	P	Christina Regan	P Robert Williams P
Firefighter	Christi Brown	P	Brandon Ferro	P	Timothy Druckenbrod	P Bryant Warner
Firefighter	Mark Pirruccio		Tracy Stewart	P	Andrew Ottino	Andrew Riker
Firefighter	Michael Trovato	P	Stephen Imparato		Zachery Bengston	Matthew Levasseur P
Firefighter	Alex McHugh		Anthony DePrizio		Connor McShera	P Marjorie Debrosky
OIC – Designated Officer in Charge						P – Paramedic

2025 brought significant changes to the organization with five retirements and two resignations. EMS Officer Paul Finn retired in July, after more than 20 years of service with both Wellfleet and Harwich. Captain Donald Parker and Captain Joseph Mayo also retired in July, taking more than 70 years of service to Harwich with them. In August, Fire Inspector Bruce Young retired after more than 40 years of service to the Town of Harwich. The final change was the retirement of Assistant to the Fire Chief Susan Pires. Having worked for five different Fire Chiefs for nearly 24 years, Susan was truly the backbone that kept the Department running.

These retirements represented a tremendous loss of experience and institutional knowledge. We are grateful for everything they have done for the Department. While we are constantly moving forward, we do so with tremendous respect for where we came from. Like all of those that have come before us, the impact of their time here will be felt long into the future.

In October, Firefighter Josh Ford left Harwich for an opportunity in Orleans, and in December, Firefighter Kyle Hallisey, who was hired in July to fill one of the retirement vacancies, resigned.

With the retirements, the Department needed to fill vacancies both with new hires and promotions. Lieutenant Brad Willis and Lieutenant Ryan Edwards were promoted to Captain, Firefighter Eric Elliott and Firefighter Adam Laplante were promoted to Lieutenant, and Firefighter Ryan Avery, Firefighter Dan SanGiovanni, and Firefighter Tim Druckenbrod were appointed as OICs.

The Department also hired 3 new firefighters, Andrew Tucker, Tory Berto, and Kyle Hallisey, and appointed Firefighter Ryan Sargent as a permanent Firefighter; he had been working as a provisional, or temporary, firefighter.

The resignations of Firefighter Josh Ford and Firefighter Kyle Hallisey were filled with provisional Firefighter Manny Rebelo and Zoe Lindauer, who will start early in 2026.

December 31, 2026, Roster

Shift Personnel						
	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	Group 4
Captain	Brad Willis	P	Leighanne Smith	P	Ryan Edwards	Justin White P
Lieutenant	Joseph Rego		Scott Tyldesley	P	Adam Laplante	P Eric Elliott P
OIC	Ryan Avery	P	Christina Regan	P	Dan SanGiovanni	P Timothy Druckenbrod P
Firefighter	Kevin Duquette		James Clarke		Andrew Ottino	Robert Williams P
Firefighter	William Schneeweiss	P	James Sandino	P	Tracy Stewart	P Bryant Warner
Firefighter	Christi Brown	P	Andrew Riker		Zachery Bengston	Stephen Imperato
Firefighter	Mark Pirruccio		Matthew Levasseur	P	Connor McShera	P Marjorie Debrosky
Firefighter	Michael Trovato	P	Anthony DePrizio		Tory Berto	Ryan Sargent
Firefighter	Alex McHugh		Andrew Tucker			
OIC – Designated Officer in Charge						P – Paramedic

These thirty-six firefighters are the backbone of the fire department, and where most of the work happens. On any given shift, they will face a multitude of challenges while providing life-saving services to Harwich and the surrounding communities. Our personnel are very qualified and well-trained, and this Department enjoys a great reputation within the community we serve.

Long ago, the Department began developing our personnel in anticipation of changes and vacancies, so that the next generation would be ready when the time came. While all these changes represent a significant change in the makeup of the Department, we are also well prepared to go into the future with these promotions.

The final addition was Assistant to the Fire Chief Marissa El Sehrawey. Marissa transferred to the Fire Department from the Town Clerk's Office and has filled the vacancy created by Susan Pires' retirement very well. We were fortunate to be able to hire Marissa last April, so she had several months of working with Susan to learn the ropes. She has been a great addition to the department and has grown into her role quickly.

Operations

For the last several years, the Department has hovered around 5000 incidents per year. There are so many factors that go into these numbers that it is often difficult to predict. The Department doesn't see a huge increase in responses during the summer, as many assume, but there is more of a change in the types of incidents based on the time of year.

Each call for service receives one incident number, no matter how many resources respond to the scene. These incidents include everything from a beeping smoke detector to a building fire, with seventy-five percent of them being medical in nature.

Incident Type Breakdown	
Incident Type Category	Total
Fire	79
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	4
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	3675
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	179
Service Call	312
Good Intent Call	194
False Alarm and False Call	469
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1
Special Incident Type	33
Total Incidents	4946

These categories are broad, and many different subcategories are found under each incident type. For example, the Fire category includes chimney fires, car fires, brush fires, and trash fires.

EMS Transport Type	
ALS Transport	BLS Transport
2344	350
Total Transports	2694

ALS – Advanced Life Support **BLS** – Basic Life Support

Mutual Aid

Very few departments have the capability to handle multiple incidents at one time, and certainly few in this area have the resources to effectively fight a building fire without help from neighboring communities. The mutual aid system in Barnstable County is very robust and provides the 20 Fire Departments on Cape Cod a plan and the resources to manage even the most severe incident.

Automatic Aid - Certain responses require Towns to send apparatus on the report of an incident. For example, a reported building fire in Harwich receives an Engine from either Dennis or Chatham and a Ladder from Brewster.

Mutual Aid - These responses are generated by a request from another Town for additional resources. For example, when all the Harwich ambulances are tied up, and another ambulance call is received, the next closest ambulance is requested by Mutual Aid.

Barnstable County has a Regional Technical Rescue Team as well as a Regional Dive Team. Both teams are made up of personnel from various Cape Departments and provide resources for low-frequency, high-risk events that individual Departments typically can't manage on their own.

Harwich has personnel assigned to both teams and has since they were created. The initial setup, training, and equipping of these teams was funded by Homeland Security money provided by the Commonwealth. Now the training and equipment are funded through the individual Departments.

Mutual Aid – Received		
	Automatic Aid – Received	Mutual Aid – Received
Bourne		1
Brewster	17	38
Chatham	12	13
Dennis	20	24
Eastham		1

Hyannis		4
Orleans		5
Sandwich		1
Wellfleet		1
Yarmouth		2
Sub Total	49	90
Total Mutual Aid Received		139

Mutual Aid – Given		
Town	Automatic Aid – Given	Mutual Aid – Given
Barnstable		1
Bourne		2
Brewster	13	71
Chatham	7	16
COMM		4
Dennis	10	33
Eastham	4	6
Falmouth		4
JBCC		2
Orleans	6	22
Province-town	6	6
Sandwich		3
Truro		1
Wellfleet		7
Yarmouth		13
Sub Total	46	191
Total Mutual Aid Given		237

Fire Training

The men and women who make up this Department are highly trained and educated, and one of the biggest challenges we face is maintaining that level of training so that they can continue to improve.

In July, Captain Justin White was appointed as the Training Officer. He performs these duties in addition to his other role as a shift captain. His role is to standardize the Department's training and work with each shift to ensure all our firefighters are proficient in the skills they need to use daily.

The Department is fortunate to have many qualified personnel when it comes to in-house training. While many personnel will attend classes offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy or private conferences to get additional knowledge and experience, it is critical for the Department to have an internal training program so that personnel can train together as a shift or as a Department on policies and procedures.

The Department is fortunate that we can use houses scheduled to be torn down for training. This is a benefit to our personnel as it allows them to practice in real buildings that are found in our community. These training opportunities allow the Department to practice search and rescue, ventilation, hoseline techniques, and a variety of other skills.

We are also working with other Departments to gain access to their training buildings to allow our personnel to train in live fire conditions. This is something that we used to be able to do in Barnstable.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention consists of two separate functions. The Fire Prevention Officer is responsible for reviewing plans, conducting final inspections on new construction, quarterly/annual inspections for commercial properties, fire drills for the schools, plus any other code enforcement/violation issues that arise.

The other piece of fire prevention is public education and risk assessment for our more vulnerable populations. The Department has developed a SAFE and Senior Safe program; both are grant-funded through the State. These programs target the school-age children as well as the elderly population and are an important part of keeping Harwich safe.

In addition, the Police and Fire Departments have conducted numerous 'Run, Hide, Fight' drills with the school and other entities. It is unfortunate that we live in a world where this is necessary, and these incidents are very challenging, even with training and preparation.

Fire Prevention		
Type	Number	Fee
Inspections: Resale, Final, Quarterly, Annual	416	\$23,620
Permits	222	\$10,800
Record requests: Copies	22	\$110
Fines		
Totals		\$34,530

Buildings / Fleet

The Department’s firehouses and apparatus remain in good condition, and this is in no small part due to the efforts of Kyle Edson and Sean Libby and their personnel at the Department of Public Works. We are fortunate in Harwich to have our Building and Fleet maintenance managed at the DPW.

We are expecting delivery of an ambulance in the Spring of 2026. This is the first of 3 that were ordered two years ago. The construction delays for apparatus are improving, but still significant.

This Fall we completed the pre-construction conference for the Engine approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The construction time is expected to be 18 months, and as a result, we have moved up the replacement of the next engine to account for the increased mileage and use on the primary engine.

The County Fire Departments went through a change in apparatus numbering this year to standardize our numbering and follow industry standards. As a result, the Harwich apparatus no longer has the two-digit 60 and 70 series numbers, but a single-digit identification. Overall, the change has been very successful.

Conclusion

The Harwich Fire Department you see today is a product of the Fire Department that was officially formed in 1929. The dedication that formed the Department has forged the organization you see today.

Throughout the years, the department has faced challenges and changed to meet the needs of the community. Sometimes those changes were small, other times they were large. Regardless, the department has improved because of them.

We are facing another change in the future as our operational model is meeting the pressure of modern-day Harwich. The reliance on off-duty personnel to staff the firehouses while incidents take place is no longer as

effective as it was. As Chief, my goal is to provide the same level of service to everyone who calls for service, regardless of how many incidents occur. We are struggling to meet that goal with the current system. As we move forward, we will examine opportunities to provide better service, including the addition of staff to make sure we are meeting the needs of Harwich.

None of this is a reflection on the dedication of the men and women who come to work each day ready to respond and help the people of our great town. I could not be prouder of their efforts, and I am grateful to be able to serve alongside them as their Chief.

Respectfully submitted,

David J LeBlanc,
Chief of Department - Forest Warden

Report of the Harbormaster Department

MISSION STATEMENT

The Harbormaster Department maintains a 24hour, multimission state of readiness to protect, serve, and support the Town of Harwich and its waterways. Our mission is to:

- Enhance public outreach, education, and community engagement
- Conduct training and coordinated operations with partnering agencies and Town departments
- Assist mariners and vessels in distress
- Enforce Massachusetts General Laws and Harwich bylaws governing vessel operations and waterways
- Respond to incidents involving maritime pollution
- Maintain all Townowned fresh and saltwater aids to navigation
- Operate Townowned marine pumpout facilities
- Support Natural Resource Department facilities and programs, including shellfish propagation, herring spawning, and water sampling
- Oversee and maintain the Saquatucket Municipal Marina, Wychmere Town Pier, Allen Harbor Town Dock, and boat ramps at Herring River, Round Cove, and Long Pond

The Department is committed to earning and upholding the trust of our community through reliable, skilled, and professional service. The Department is dedicated to fairness and consistency in every circumstance, ensuring equitable treatment for all. With clear communication as a guiding principle, we will continue to provide assistance and support to everyone who depends on our waterways.

PERSONNEL

Full-Time Staff:

John Harker	Harbormaster
Andrew Souza	Deputy Harbormaster
Michelle Morris	Waterways Specialist
James Adamson	Dockhand/Assistant Harbormaster
Stephanie Ridenour	Natural Resources Director/Assistant Harbormaster

Seasonal Staff:

Barry Springer, Tanner Cornell, Brian Chenette, Emma Thornton
Rich Matthews, Alan Fish, Matt Croke, Matt Fontaine
James Adamsons, Scott O'Connor

OPERATIONS

The Department staff conducted a wide spectrum of operational tasks throughout 2025. At the forefront was their skilled ability and responsiveness to aid the public at all times. This comes from a staff of four with boat resources located in Saquatucket Harbor, Long Pond, and Round Cove. Emergency operations included tows of disabled recreational and commercial fishing vessels, the water rescue of distressed individuals, the assistance in salvaging and protecting vessels taking on water or otherwise damaged, and response to illicit activity reports. Ashore, the Harbormaster staff worked tirelessly to ensure operations at all town docks and piers along with public boat ramps ran seamlessly and provided timely responses and assistance to all requests. During the Summer boating season (mid-June through Indigenous Peoples' Day) the Department staffed the harbor seven days a week 10+ hours a day.

Law Enforcement – The primary objective of all law enforcement actions by the Department is to promote public safety and compel voluntary compliance with federal, state, and local boating and waterway regulations. The staff works directly with their local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to support these statutory duties. Land and marine patrols were conducted routinely by the staff at all five boat ramps, ponds channels, and harbors, along with the coastal waters of Nantucket Sound and Pleasant Bay abutting the Town of Harwich. In addition to the public safety patrols the staff would check for compliance with boat registration, mooring permit and occupancy, and waterway user fee requirements. Landings Officer furthermore provided a presence at both our town ramps and landings enforcing parking regulations.

The following enforcement actions were recorded:

- Harbor Management Plan - 3 non-criminal violations issued for non-compliance.
- Parking Violations – 244 issued violations.

Aids to Navigation - The Department staff deployed 77 seasonal private aids to navigation within Harwich saltwater waterways and on Long Pond prior to the start of the boating season; this includes channel markers, swim area buoys and no-wake buoys. The position of aids were verified and adjusted as needed throughout the season, and all buoys were hauled for maintenance at season end.

Department of Natural Resources - The Department worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources to support their efforts throughout the year. Being responsible for the facilities maintenance of the Shellfish Laboratory at Wychmere Harbor, Department staff provided critical repairs

and updates to the infrastructure while also assisting the Natural Resources Officer with maintenance and repairs to the laboratory equipment. On the water, the Department assisted with the broadcasting of nearly 500,000 shellfish throughout Harwich harbor and rivers and supported efforts on land for the Herring spawning and migration.

Clean Vessel Act - Operating within the guidelines of the state Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program, the department operated four portable pump-out carts and two pump-out boats, one located in Round Cove and one in Saquatucket Harbor. The Department responded to over 57 vessel pump-out requests recovering approximately 3,000 gallons of sewage. This does not include the 1,000+ gallons of sewage collected at the self-service shore side pump-out station at the east bulkhead of Saquatucket Harbor.

Mooring Servicing Agent - Lower Cape Marine Services served as the Mooring Servicing Agent for Round Cove, Pleasant Bay and Herring River mooring fields. Mooring Service Agents for Allen Harbor was again Allen Harbor Marine Service and for Wychmere Inner and Outer Harbor it was Harwich Port Boatyard. The Department is very grateful for these three Mooring Service Agent cooperative efforts, in total with the department staff, nearly 600 moorings were serviced and maintained in the Town of Harwich.

ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2025 Harbor Receipts- The table below provides a comprehensive list of Harbor and Waterway related revenues collected within the Department throughout fiscal year 2025. The Department continues to produce strong annual revenues. The desire and reservations for transient (visitor) dockage slips continues with 326 reservations for 2025 which yielded nearly \$320,000.

Source	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22
Seasonal Dockage	\$805,213.69	\$808,085.91	\$805,112.50	\$800,818.58
Visitor Dockage	\$319,059.73	\$372,703.83	\$368,066.53	\$331,068.63
Ramp Fees	\$34,770.00	\$36,590.00	\$41,290.00	\$34,380.00
Offload Permit Fees	\$36,760.50	\$41,196.80	\$47,017.40	\$40,252.80
List Waiting Fee (Slips)	\$14,750.00	\$14,280.00	\$13,940.00	\$9,901.00
Fuel Commission	\$10,012.89	\$9,467.66	\$9,439.49	\$8,913.27
MSA Fee	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00
Electric Use	\$42,507.93	\$44,754.66	\$39,983.00	\$46,743.88
Ice Receipts	\$2,977.50	\$2,986.50	\$2,455.00	\$1,814.00
Water/Land User Fees (1626)	\$85,845.00	\$87,730.00	\$87,255.00	\$85,590.00
Mooring Fees (1621), 1/2 Boat Excise	\$155,590.24	\$131,045.88	\$129,225.78	\$129,405.98
Parking Rental	\$29,295.00	\$27,125.00	\$27,125.00	\$24,035.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$897.12	\$795.82	\$3,050.88	\$905.89
Ticket Booth	\$8,640.00	\$8,640.00	\$8,640.00	\$8,640.00
Snack Shack	\$14,106.48	\$12,866.42	\$18,490.39	\$9,000.00
Parking Violations	\$7,465.00	\$5,425.00	\$7,836.00	\$5,425.00
	\$1,569,211.08	\$1,605,013.48	\$1,610,246.97	\$1,538,214.03
Beach Sand	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128,984.50

Harbor Management Plan - The following changes to the Harbor Management Plan were implemented during 2025:

- Appendix A – Special Purpose Mooring approved for Pleasant Bay Community Boating and Working Mooring approved for Aquaculture Research Corporation Request

GRANTS / PROJECTS

MA Dredging Grant – The town was again awarded a FY 25 MA Dredging Program grant in the amount of \$106,000 from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to fund a portion of the Allen Harbor channel dredge project.

DREDGING / BEACH NOURISHMENT

Wychmere Harbor Channel (April 2025) - Barnstable County Dredge removed approximately 1,833 cubic yards of material from Wychmere Harbor which was trucked by DPW to nourish Red River Beach. This was the second year in a row this channel required dredging which is an unusual pattern being that historically this channel is on an every-other-year schedule of need.

Allen Harbor Channel (May 2025 / June 2025) – Barnstable County Dredge removed approx. 2,470 cubic yards of material from the Allen Harbor entrance channel. Original pre-dredge survey conducted on the 15th of April, 2025 for both the entrance channel and approach channel estimated approx. 3,300 cubic yards would be removed. Due to mechanical problems, non-conductive weather, and Time-of-Year (TOY) restrictions imposed by the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, two TOY waivers were requested and granted to complete dredging. The first dredging campaign commenced on the 20th of May and completed 2,470 cubic yards of removal in the approach channel portion of Allen Harbor. The second waiver allowed for a three-day window of dredging from the 15th -22nd of June but could not be completed, nor started, by the Barnstable County Dredge during that time due to adverse weather and relocation of dredge piping. The Grant funds from Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development covered 50% of dredge cost for Allen Harbor. Dredge material was pumped to Grey Neck, Earle and Wah Wah Taysee public beaches.

Dredge Permit Renewals:

- U.S. Army Corps 10-year comprehensive dredge permit (NAE-2008-00014) issued June 14, 2023
- DEP 401 Water Quality Certification issued November 13, 2023
- DEP Chapter 91 Waterways Permit (WW01-0000344) issued April 4, 2024
- 3-year extension to Conservation Commission Order of Conditions (permit SE32-2298) issued February 21, 2024

CLOSING

This year marked a period of transition for the Department. In January, John Rendon retired after 13 years of service as Harwich Harbormaster. John served in the U.S. Coast Guard for over two decades before transitioning to civil service as an Assistant Harbormaster in Chatham and then our full-time Harbormaster in Harwich. His leadership was instrumental in advancing major projects including the Saquatucket facilities and harbor reconstruction, the Wychmere commercial pier replacement, and the Allen Harbor parking lot, bulkhead, and floats replacement. These initiatives have provided lasting benefits to residents, visitors, and local businesses that rely on our waterways. The Department also bid farewell to Deputy Harbormaster Bill Neiser. Bill began in Chatham in 2010 as an EMT, Firefighter, and Seasonal Assistant Harbormaster before joining Harwich as an Assistant Harbormaster in 2014. Soon thereafter Bill was promoted to Deputy Harbormaster and for the next decade was a prominent, reliable, and trusted fixture of the harbor. He would be seen routinely walking the docks and greeting visitors, a true keystone to the community and its waterway users.

Together, John and Bill wholeheartedly served the community of Harwich. They exemplified dedication, professionalism, and service to the Town every day and their contributions have left a legacy. We wish them the best as they embark on their welllearned retirements.

Very Respectfully,

John Harker, Harbormaster

Report of the **Harwich Police Department**

To the Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of the Town of Harwich, as Chief of Police, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Harwich Police Department for the year 2025.

DEPARTMENT ROSTER

(As of December 31, 2025)

ADMINISTRATION / COMMAND STAFF

Chief Kevin M. Considine

Deputy Chief Adam E. Hutton

Lieutenant Aram V. Goshgarian - Administrative

Lieutenant Amy R. Walinski - Operations

Greta Montgomery - Assistant to the Police Chief

SERGEANTS

Detective Sergeant Robert C. Brackett

Sergeant Paul P. Boorack

Sergeant Peter T. Petell

Sergeant Tyler J. Vermette

Sergeant Brendan R. Brickley

FULL TIME OFFICERS

Officer Neil A. Nolan

Officer T. Paul Ulrich

School Resource Officer Thomas D. Clarke

Detective Marc W. Harris

Officer Derek J. Dutra

Officer Mark T. Holmes

Officer Keith T. Kannally

Officer James R. Connery

Officer Thomas G. Griffiths

School Resource Officer John J. Larivee

Officer Ronald D. Ruggiero

Officer Daniel J. Donovan

Officer Colin J. Thomas

Officer Thomas C. Radzik

Officer Drew S. Ridenour

Officer Jessica C. McGrath

Officer Richard Pellegrino

Officer Kyleigh Lopes
Officer Charles McCaffrey
Officer Scott McFarland
Officer Rachid Arnick
Officer De'Andre Bennett
Officer Elijah Beasley
Officer Jacob Rosado
Officer Sean Driscoll
Officer Olivia Keiderling

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/ANIMAL INSPECTOR
Jennifer L. Harrington

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS - DISPATCH

Diane Nicholson
Iris McNally
Theodore Monteiro
Jade Ross
Nora Dyer

RECORDS SPECIALIST

Julie L. Judge

SPECIAL OFFICERS

Joseph Stone
Richard Campbell
Robert D. Hadfield
Richard E. Buttrick
John F. Sullivan Jr.

POLICE MATRON

Diane Nicholson

POLICE CHAPLAIN

Reverend Darren L. Morgan

POLICE K-9

Fritz

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORTED AND TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2025

	2024	2025
Homicide	0	0
Rape	2	6
Robbery	0	0
Assault	48	57
Burglary	14	13
Larceny	56	58
Auto Theft	2	1
Arson	0	0
Arrests/Protective Custody/Section 12	99	98
Summons Arrests	115	81
Total Calls and Patrol Initiated Activity	16,138	15,577

PERSONNEL

In my first Annual Report last year, I noted that we have been struggling for many years to fill all of our vacancies as Law Enforcement agencies across the Country have also struggled to recruit and hire police officers. We have participated in numerous job fairs at colleges and universities across the Commonwealth and we continue our strong partnership with Monomoy Regional High School and their intern program. Hiring police officers is an extensive process that is not only time consuming for our department but costly as well. We continue to hold to the very highest standards in hiring. I am proud to report that in the year 2025 we have filled all of our patrol officer vacancies and are at full strength. Although we are still dealing with long term duty injuries and as of the end of 2025, these new officers have yet to graduate the full-time police academy, it is an exciting time to get to full strength. We will soon graduate these officers from the academy and start realizing their impact on our schedule. I want to thank members of the Interview, Hiring and Background Unit for their diligent work in recruitment, interviews and backgrounds investigations as well as the Command Staff for their efforts in hiring the best candidates to serve our department and community.

In March of 2025, Kate Varley, long time Assistant to the Police Chief, resigned to pursue another opportunity. Kate began her career in Harwich as a Police Officer then transferred to the Brewster Police Department. Later, Kate moved back to Harwich Police to serve as a public safety

dispatcher. Kate then moved to become the Assistant to the Police Chief, a position she held for 10 years. Kate has been mentioned in countless Annual Reports for her dedication and professionalism and I want to thank Kate for her tremendous work over the years.

Greta Montgomery joined our team as the new Assistant to the Chief of Police. Greta came to us with years of experience as Assistant to the Police Chief in the Town of Orleans. Greta is a welcome addition to our Command Staff.

Officer Elijah Beasley was hired and began the East Falmouth Police Academy on January 13, 2025. Elijah grew up in the Town of Harwich and graduated from Monomoy Regional High School and has strong ties here in Harwich. Elijah received his degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Officer Sean Driscoll was hired in October of 2025. Sean grew up on Cape Cod and attended Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School. Sean attended Cape Cod Community College in the Criminal Justice program then enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. Sean's duty in the Coast Guard included law enforcement duties as well as rescue operations.

Also hired in October of 2025 was Officer Jacob Rosado. Jacob grew up in Falmouth and received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Jacob worked for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office where he was a legal assistant in the Major Felony Bureau assisting prosecutors, investigators and victim-witness advocates. Jacob also assisted in the office's homicide response team. When asked why Jacob wanted to work in Harwich, he said he wished to provide service to a community similar to the one he grew up in and wished to work for a department with a commitment to community policing.

In December Officer Olivia Keiderling was hired. Olivia grew up in Lee, Massachusetts and attended Westfield State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Olivia holds a certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. Prior to joining our department, Olivia was a Community Service Officer (CSO) with the Provincetown Police Department where she provided non-sworn public safety services including traffic control, parking enforcement and community engagement while supporting public safety operations.

Finally, I want to recognize and thank Special Officer Robert Horgan who in 2025 retired as a Special Officer. Officer Horgan was a long-time full-time police officer in Harwich, and we thank him for his years of service to our community.

THE POLICE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Since 2004, the Harwich Police Department has had active police chaplains serving our officers and community to meet the spiritual needs of citizens and police during times of crisis. Longtime Reverend James David of St. Mary of Magdala Church has been the police chaplain since the inception of the program and has retired. To meet the needs of this specialized service and to continue to have a strong Chaplain program, a new chaplain was necessary. With the assistance of Massachusetts State Police Chaplain Coordinator Kate Galop, Reverend Darren Morgan from The Federated Church of Orleans has agreed to accept this volunteer position.

Reverend Morgan began his career in the United States Army as a Military Policeman and Criminal Investigator. After his service, he worked as a police officer for the York Maine Police Department from 1985-1990. Reverend Morgan then entered the field of Health and Human Services before entering the field of ministry.

Reverend Morgan is the Senior Pastor of The Federated Church of Orleans and on November 7th was sworn in as a Chaplain for the Massachusetts State Police, assigned to Troop D. Reverend Morgan also recently attended the Law Enforcement Chaplains Program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy where he completed courses required by the International Conference of Police Chaplains. He also just completed our 10-week Harwich Citizens Police Academy.

All of us look forward to working with Reverend Morgan and I wish to thank him for his eagerness to volunteer for this position and his important work in our community.

OFFICER RECOGNITION

Since taking over as Chief, I have always been thankful for the number of citizens who take time to write me regarding the good work our officers do. Often times, the situation they are thanking us for are the worst times in their life. There have been numerous letter of thanks for our officers which I have responded to. It gives me great pride in recognizing the great work our staff does each day. Too often citizens overlook the small acts of kindness and community service provided by police officers and dispatchers and our entire staff.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

OFFICER TOM CLARKE AND FRITZ – MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program was created over 25 years ago. SROs are committed to maintaining a strong partnership with

our school districts and are dedicated to providing a positive and safe atmosphere within the schools. School safety is our number one priority. Our responsibility is to keep students, staff, and visitors safe.

SROs also focus on building trust and developing positive relationships with students. Kids learn at an early age that police are there to help them and that they don't need to be scared or intimidated by the uniform.

SROs are not hiding under stairwells or spying on students in the hallways, looking to get them in trouble. We do not become SROs to make arrests or write tickets.

We care about the students, and they are a part of our daily lives. Our goal is to humanize police officers—to help kids see behind the badge and view the SRO as someone they can rely on and trust.

A big part of this job is learning to become a good listener. These kids just want to be heard and feel valued. Being the person, they want to talk to is a privilege and a very rewarding part of being an SRO. We try to be that consistent, caring adult in their life that they may not have at home.

Another important part of the SRO role is prevention. You can't put a number on how many dangerous incidents didn't happen because of police presence in the schools. It's difficult to quantify, but there is real value in the deterrent aspect.

I hope I'm someone they remember with a smile when they look back at their childhood 20 years from now, and that I had a positive influence on them. Hopefully, we can help bridge the gap between law enforcement and today's youth.

Examples of SRO Job Responsibilities

- Help keep our schools safe
- Provide school safety training and drills for faculty, staff, and students
- Act as mentors and informal counselors to students
- Not involved in school discipline unless behavior poses a threat to students, staff, or the school community
- Serve as another trusted adult in the school who will do anything to help students succeed
- Visit classrooms as guest speakers on a variety of topics
- Meet daily with administration and guidance staff regarding students of concern or students at risk
- Serve as a visible deterrent for crime or inappropriate behavior
- Conduct random searches with K9 Fritz

- Enforce the law only when absolutely necessary and as a last resort (serious offenses such as drugs, violence, or weapons); school discipline or diversion is preferred
- Coach or volunteer with student activities to build additional connections with students

Examples of How SROs Show Support and Get Involved

Monomoy SROs can often be seen attending:

- Homecoming events, powder puff games, parades, and spirit week activities
- Award ceremonies, graduations, proms, and dances
- Sporting events, plays, and concerts
- Community center events such as Easter egg hunts, Halloween parties, and laser tag
- School field days, health and wellness fairs, and senior beach days
- Best Buddies events and Special Olympics Games
- Holiday and Back-to-School “Shop with a Cop,” Family Fun Fairs
- Career days, touch-a-truck events, bike rodeos, and Safe Routes to School programs
- Partnering with local organizations to provide food, clothing, and toys to families in need

Why SRO?

I was fortunate enough to have some very good coaches and role models in my life. They made a huge impact on my upbringing and childhood.

Over the years, I have coached many sports at both the youth and high school levels and have recognized the need for more mentors and positive influences for our youth. I wish all kids had a great home life, but sadly, that’s not always the reality.

I felt the SRO position offered a great opportunity to become a role model and have a positive impact on many children’s lives.

It’s like being a life coach—talking to kids about character, integrity, and always trying to do the right thing. Helping to keep kids safe and on the right path is incredibly rewarding.

We also work to bridge the gap between police and kids. Sometimes a child’s image of a police officer is scary or intimidating. We want to show them that we are trusted adults and part of the school family and team; that we care about them, want them to succeed, and will be there to help and support them. It’s a privilege to have a job where you can truly make a difference.

“DETECT and PROTECT”

Harwich Police K9 Fritz has been Officer Clarke’s partner at the school for almost six years.

Fritz is a German Shorthaired Pointer imported from Hungary.

He is trained to detect marijuana, THC, and nicotine vaping products. He is also trained in tracking to help locate missing people.

Fritz has located many missing or endangered individuals over the years.

He is extremely effective in his detection work at the high school, and we have seen incidents of drug and vaping activity drastically decrease.

K9 Fritz helps keep our schools drug-free and our students safe and healthy.

Although he is a working police dog, he also acts as a de facto comfort dog.

Fritz is a daily visible deterrent and a reminder not to use vapes, marijuana, or other dangerous substances.

He is friendly and approachable—a great icebreaker and conversation starter for quiet or shy kids.

He helps reduce stress and anxiety when students are reporting difficult situations; being able to pet Fritz often helps them feel more comfortable sharing their story.

Many students have told me, “Seeing Fritz is the best part of my day.”

Fritz is also a very popular representative for the police department in public relations with frequent appearances at community events such as summer camps, youth academies, touch-a-trucks, strolls, parades, field days and holiday themed events.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN (LETR) FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MASSACHUSETTS

In 2025 Harwich Police continued to sponsor two great fund-raising events for Special Olympics Massachusetts. In March, our fourth annual polar plunge took place at Red River Beach. Thanks to continued great weather, we had a record turn out of participants. In 2025 we raised over \$55,000. We want to thank our community who continues to support this event each year.

In May of 2025 we sponsored and organized the annual LETR Cape Cod Torch Run to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics. This

70-mile relay run from Provincetown to Bourne brings police and public safety teams from every department on Cape Cod through 10 towns as they hand off the Flame of Hope in a relay beginning at 5 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m. The officers and public safety staff's from each community look forward to this day each year as it is a small way for them to give back to the community.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT / INVESTIGATIONS

Traffic Unit- Sergeant Paul Boorack and Officer Mark Holmes

The Traffic Unit is supervised by Sgt. Boorack and staffed by Patrol Officer Mark T. Holmes. In addition to responding to calls for service, Ofc. Holmes is responsible for Traffic Enforcement, Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations, and enforcing Town By-Laws related to sightline issues, and unregistered motor vehicles. In 2025 the Harwich Police Department stopped 1,405 vehicles for various traffic violations.

Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation

The Traffic Unit investigates all types of motor vehicle crashes ranging from minor fender-benders to serious injury and death. Traffic Unit officers receive advanced training in crash investigation and reconstruction, initially consisting of 240 hours. Over the past 11 years, Officer Holmes has attended more than 800 hours of advanced crash investigation training in specialized areas such as Commercial Vehicle Crashes, Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes, and Motorcycle Crash Investigation.

The Harwich Police responded to 460 reports of motor vehicle crashes. Of these, 262 met the requirements for reporting to the Registry of Motor Vehicles due to property damage or injury. Thankfully, there were no collisions that resulted in death in Harwich in 2025.

Cape Cod Regional Law Enforcement Council Crash Reconstruction Team

Officer Holmes is an Accredited Crash Reconstructionist #3730 by the governing board of Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstructionist (ACTAR). As such, he is a member of the Regional Crash Reconstruction Team, which is comprised of officers from each town on the Cape. As Crash Reconstruction is highly technical, it requires a vast amount of knowledge and time to conduct thorough investigations and bring cases to prosecution. Each member town shares resources to accomplish this task. The Crash Reconstruction Team was activated 35 times in 2025, and Officer Holmes assisted in 28 of those investigations.

Traffic Grant

Patrol Officer Holmes applied for and received a state grant that awarded the Harwich Police Department with \$29,785.00. These funds were used for training in crash investigation, enforcement of traffic law violations, and to purchase an additional radar feedback device. The targeted enforcement areas for Impaired Driving, Occupant Safety (seatbelt and child seats), Speeding, and Distracted Driving.

Traffic Complaints

The Harwich Police responded to many traffic complaints from speeding vehicles to parking issues, and possible drunk drivers. Additionally, we addressed several complaints related to sightlines at roadway intersections. The Harwich Police respond to these complaints, analyze the issues, and work with the property owners to mitigate any hazards that may be present. In many instances, trimming of bushes or trees fixes the sightlines. Additionally, targeted enforcement is sometimes necessary to address speed complaints.

Radar Feedback Signs

The Harwich Police maintain 4 Portable Radar Feedback Signs. Each of these signs was purchased using state grant funds over a period of several years. These signs not only show the drivers their current speed, but also capture data related to individual vehicle speeds, vehicle count per-hour, per-day, and per-week, as well as average speeds, and 85% speeds. This data is then analyzed to determine when the best time to conduct targeted enforcement would be. The signs can be requested by sending an email to Officer Holmes at mholmes@harwich-ma.gov or calling him at 508-310-4469.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY – SGT. BRENDAN BRICKLEY

On November 13th, 2025 the Harwich Police Department congratulated 20 new graduates of the Citizen's Police Academy. The Citizen's Police Academy serves multiple purposes in bridging the gap between the Harwich Police and the residents HPD serves. The Academy serves as the cornerstone of HPD's Community Oriented Policing model where the Harwich police and the public work in continuity in solving local problems involving crime, disorder, and neighborhood decay. The Academy is an interactive 10-week experience held on Thursday evenings from September through November each year. The Academy allows for both education involving the rolls and responsibilities of local police officers, as well as a two-way communication with the public for why things are done the way they are. In addition, residents are educated on aspects of the law, equipment used by police, and the different investigations officers are responsible for.

The Academy featured law enforcement presenters from both HPD and neighboring law enforcement partners. HPD Traffic Officer Holmes presented on traffic law and motor-vehicle safety. Officer Holmes educated graduates on Harwich crash stats and reviewed crash reconstruction cases he has handled in both Harwich and the surrounding Cape towns. In addition, Officer Holmes presented on the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administrations (NHTSA) drunk driving program.

HPD Dispatchers Nicholson and McNally gave graduates an eye-opening view into the world of Emergency Dispatch. The class began with a tour of the Harwich Police Dispatch Center and the various technology dispatchers have to navigate to aid officers in the field with expedited response during emergency. In addition, graduates were educated on the communication skills needed to effectively work 911, the dispatch radio, and mapping software so that officers are sent to calls with all the necessary information during times of emergency.

HPD Animal Control Officer Harrington presented a full evening on the roles and responsibilities of an Animal Control Officer. ACO Harrington educated graduates on the leash law, kennel licenses, barn inspections, and the ACOs relationship with local partners such as the Animal Rescue League and IFAW. ACO Harrington also presented specific cases she has worked on involving animal abuse and neglect where those responsible were criminally prosecuted and ultimately convicted.

Graduates were given a two-block educational experience involving firearms, Taser, and use-of-force policy/guidelines. Sergeant Vermette, Patrol Supervisor Dutra, Patrol Supervisor Donovan, Patrol Supervisor Pellegrino, and Officer's Thomas and Ridenour served as presenters. Not only were graduates educated on federal and state law regarding use-of-force by police in the field they were assisted by officers on the firearms range and were given live firearms range training. This was the first time many of our graduates had ever operated a firearm. This provided our graduates with a safe environment to learn hands-on with officers.

Harwich PD was very fortunate to have two special guest presenters. First, Criminal Investigations Officers (CIOs) from the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office, as well as BCSO Drone Operators were able to present the mutual aid assistance they give not only to HPD but all of our neighboring towns. Specifically, regarding fingerprinting and photographing crime scenes. The BCSO Drone Unit showed graduates the capabilities of their drones and how they are used in locating suspects, as well as missing persons. The second outside presenter was Superior Court Judge Robert Rufo (Ret.). Judge Rufo explained the criminal justice process in totality. Judge Rufo educated graduates in what a Judge is looking for when

evaluating the completeness of police reports in meeting probable cause standards. In addition, what Judge Rufo explained what Judges are looking for during police investigative techniques when evaluating motion hearings and findings of guilt. HPD is very appreciative of both the time Judge Rufo's volunteered during this year's Academy and his investment back into his community.

Lastly, HPD Sergeant Detective Brackett presented graduates with both criminal investigations and drug investigations that he and his team of investigators have handled in town. Sgt. Brackett presented graduates with many of the tools and techniques used by officers working in investigative roles in determining the correct suspect(s). Sgt. Brackett presented graduates with the most innovative investigative approaches involving cell phone locations, DNA technology, and motor-vehicle infotainment systems. Sgt. Brackett explained the search warrant process in order for investigators to obtain the information located wherein, as well as, how to make sense of it all once obtained. Sgt. Brackett presented cases that had been successfully prosecuted with guilty findings and what specific investigative techniques he and his team utilized to obtain the probable cause to arrest those responsible for the illicit conduct.

Harwich Police is indebted to all those who served as presenters for our 20 new graduates. HPD will be accepting applications for the 2026 Citizen's Police Academy beginning in late August, hope to see you then!

ANNUAL REPORT OF ANIMAL CONTROL – JENNIFER HARRINGTON

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Animal Control Officer for the year 2025.

Animal Control total calls for 2025 were 694 which is slightly over the 688 in 2024. We had 28 dog bite calls which is down from 43 in 2024 and 41 in 2023. Out of the 27 dog bite calls, 8 of those were in home incidents where the owner or a family member was bitten. Understanding our animals body language can help prevent bites and help us to be better owners.

Some of the more popular calls for services included:

- 168 Loose Dog
- 120 Wildlife
- 49 Barking Complaints
- 16 Animal Cruelty/Neglect, 11 of these were dogs left in hot vehicles
- 69 Missing/Found Animals
- 74 Follow Up-these are generally following up on previous cases

- 25 Quarantines
- 60 Barn Inspections-Inspections are mandatory in Mass and overseen by MDAR
- 22 Kennel Inspections-these are residential owning 4 or more dogs, breeders, boarding and daycare facilities
- 7 Dogs Struck by Vehicle-3 of these did not survive
- 6 Cats Struck by Vehicle-5 of these did not survive
- 5 Assist Owner- assisting owners with dog who passed at home or lifting into vehicle for Veterinary visit

We continued our Tails, Scales & Wild Things Classes, a series of FREE educational talks to help educate the community held at the Harwich Community Center. Our most popular class this year was Canine Body Language. Canine Body Language is something any person who owns, works with or comes in contact with dogs throughout their lives should understand and be well versed in. Learning and understanding canine body language not only helps you to have a better relationship with your dog, but also can help prevent things like dog bites.

Harwich Animal Control teamed up with Reagan Wilda from Harwich Community Center, Jen Singleton from Harwich Health Department and Cyndi Williams from Harwich Chamber of Commerce to bring the Harwich community its first large-scale dog event “Barks in the Park”. This event far exceeded our expectations with dogs accompanied by their humans from all over Cape Cod! We had a total of 52 amazing, local vendors with fantastic, unique animal related products, rescue organizations, holistic pet care, pet contest, food trucks, local animal hospitals and dog trainers who did demonstrations for Agility, Nose work and Rally Obedience, a band, bobbing for ducks and SO much more! This event raised money for the Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care serving Cape Cod & the Islands. We are so excited to share that Barks in the Park will be an annual event in Harwich where we will raise money for different animal related organizations. Barks in the Park has already outgrown our beautiful venue at Brooks Park and will be held at the Harwich Community Center on Sunday, October 4, 2026, where we will have some new and exciting things to offer and share with our animal loving community.

As years passed, we had many missing pets throughout the year. If your pet goes missing these are the steps you should take to ensure your pet gets home safely and quickly!

1. Call Animal Control immediately so we can post on our social media pages, we can help in the search of your pet and so we know in case someone brings your pet in.

2. Contact all local Veterinarian offices, neighboring animal control departments and shelters in the area.
3. Reach out to Missing Dogs of Massachusetts. We work closely with MDM, which is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, helping endlessly to get missing pets back home safe.
4. Make flyers and post around town and in neighboring towns-grocery stores, post office, anywhere they are allowed and will be seen. Please remember to remove flyers when pets are found so they don't take away from others who are still missing.
5. If you see a loose animal, please call in those sightings as soon as possible as your sighting could be the one to save that animal's life.
6. Never chase a loose pet as this only makes them run further away and puts them in danger.
7. Always make sure your pet has their dog license and ID tags on to help identify them in case they do get lost. This even works for the dogs we can't get close to as we can read the license tag # from a distance and look it up to contact the owner and advise where the dog was last seen. Our goal is always to get your pet back home safe to you.

Mass state law requires all dogs in Massachusetts to be licensed each year in the town they reside in. It is not only important for your dog's safety but is also the law to always wear their license. All dogs including kennel licenses must be licensed by January 31, 2026, to avoid late fees and citations.

As a Town of Harwich Pet Owner, please be responsible, respectful of others and obey all the Town's Animal Bylaws. Respect our wildlife neighbors and watch them from a distance. As always please call us with any questions, concerns or complaints.

Follow us on Facebook for educational post in regard to pets, our wildlife neighbors, community outreach, helping lost or found animals reunite with their owners, and the occasional fun pet photo contest like the Top Dog Contest we do annually!

In closing, I would like to thank my Executive Assistant Greta Montgomery. Greta can always be counted on to help all members of the department and has been a great addition to the department. I would also like to thank Sergeant Brickley, Officer Clarke, Officer Holmes, Detective Harris, and ACO Harrington for their contribution to this year's annual report. I would

like to thank my entire Command Staff for their hard work and a special thanks to my Deputy Chief Adam Hutton. Adam handles the day-to-day operations of the department with ease and professionalism.

I would like to thank the Select Board and past Town Administrator Joe Powers and current Acting Town Administrator Tony Schiavi for their support of the police department and public safety. Thank you to my fellow department heads for their teamwork this past year, and a very special thanks to Fire Chief Dave LeBlanc for his support and guidance over the last year.

Thank you to the citizens of Harwich. You continue to support the police and public safety and for this, I am truly grateful.

Finally, I want to thank each member of the police department for your continued strong work and dedication to this difficult profession and your unwavering dedication to public service and community. Your work is appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Considine
Chief of Police

Report of the **Traffic Safety Committee**

The Traffic Safety Committee is an advisory committee and reports to the Town Administrator. The purpose and charge of the Committee is to assist the town and staff with planning and designing improvements to roadways, intersections and sidewalks for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. We finally have our fifth member, thanks to volunteer Karen Marotta.

We have an email address: Traffic.safety@harwich-ma.gov

The corrections to the intersection of Route 39/Old Chatham Road should be completed in the spring of 2026. The engineering phase is complete and a contract for the work should be approved shortly. No easements or land are needed from an abutter. Funding is being provided through Chapter 90 funds. The Committee is pleased that this project will see completion.

Members participated in the development of Cape Cod Vision Zero, to identify areas of traffic concern and what could be done for improvements. Committee was asked to opine on the traffic studies regarding the impacts of Pine Oaks Village 4, but we declined to have an opinion: the members felt that the professional traffic engineers would be better suited for this.

While the visitor and summer population impacts are only for a brief period, the impact is dramatic. Our police department cannot be everywhere at once to supervise parking and speeding vehicles. There continues to be interest in speed bumps (controversial) and adding more stop signs to slow down the vehicle speed. The Committee will review each request as they are presented. The community should recognize that signs do not necessarily change behavior: drivers of vehicles need to change their behavior and be more mindful of our narrow streets.

Several intersections were reviewed and improvements made. A crosswalk was added on Bank Street at the old fire station, now a museum and housing.

All Committee members attend meetings regularly. The support received from the Police Department, Department of Public Works and other town staff as needed continues to be valuable in understanding traffic issues and in achieving our objectives. Input from the residents and business owners is also welcomed and provides insight into their issues. We also thank our liaison Jeff Handler for his assistance.

Submitted by Committee members:

Select Board appointees:

Linda Cebula Chair

Jerry Belts Vice Chair

Karen Marotta Secretary

Police Department appointment:

Lt. Aram Goshgarian, Clerk, Harwich Police Department

Town Administrator appointment:

Lincoln Hooper, Department of Public Works

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

Report of the **Board of Appeals**

Currently, the Harwich Zoning Board of Appeals has 5 members:
5 regular members and 0 alternate members:
There are 5 alternate vacancies on The Board

Chairman, Brian Sullivan, Clerk, Al Donoghue, Vice Chair, Kenneth Dickson, John August, Christopher Murphy.

As of 12/31/25, The Board of Appeals has heard 56 cases.

The cases consisted of the following:

- Special Permits: 43 – Granted, 1 Withdrawn without Prejudice
- Variances: 8- Granted; 2 Withdrawn without Prejudice
- Applications to enforce or overturn decisions by the Building Commissioner - 1
- Extensions – NONE
- Modifications - NONE
- Motion to Dismiss – NONE
- Matter of Right –NONE
- Appeals of ZBA Decisions – NONE
- 40B Applications - 1

The Board held its regularly scheduled meetings throughout the 2025 year. Member attendance has overall been excellent with no problem absences.

Respectfully submitted,

Harwich Board of Appeals
Secretary, Rachel Lohr

Report of the

Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners and Water/Wastewater Department

The Harwich Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners and Water Department respectfully submit our Annual Report to the Honorable Select Board and to the citizens of the Town of Harwich for the year 2025.

Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners

The Board of Water & Wastewater Commissioners is comprised of a 5-member board elected and responsible for the Town of Harwich for the administration, maintenance, and operation of the water and sewer system.

Water Operations

The Water Department offers a wide variety of services from seasonal water turn on/off, new and renewal water service installation, utility mark outs, final readings for property transfers, backflow inspection and much more. Below is a summary of 2,638 water services performed in 2025:

2025 Water Service Activity			
Change Meter	363	Remove Meter/Demo	28
Curb Stop Repair/Replacement	16	Service Install/Renew	112
Estimates New/Renewal Services	72	Service Call/Repair	180
Final Read	325	Site Visit	48
Hydrant Flow Test	0	Troubleshoot	86
Hydrant Repair	1	Turn Off (Seasonal)	354
Hydrant Replacement	3	Turn Off Service	84
Install/Re-Install Meter	49	Turn On (Seasonal)	331
Leak Investigation	91	Turn On Service	71
Mark Out Property	397	Water Quality	5
Repair/Replace Valve	22		1,299
			1,339

Wastewater Operations

There were 54 sewer connections in 2025, bringing the total sewer connections to 393. Wastewater operations for 2025 include inspection of sewer connection, utility markouts, and emergency callouts:

2025 Wastewater Service Activity

Deduct Meter Inspection	6
Emergency Call Outs	25
Mark Out Property	90
Site Visit	170

Projects & Accomplishments

The Department remained very active throughout 2025, please find some of the more notable projects & accomplishments below:

- Pleasant Lake Tank- Drained, Inspected, and Painted
- Replaced/Upgraded Main System Server Computers
- Renewed 86 water services in East Harwich for the Phase 3 Sewer Project
- Continued upgrades to the Water & Sewer SCADA Systems with enhanced Cybersecurity
- Added water main extensions and 7 hydrants & 10 blow-off to dead end road's
- Installed 100 Ft of 6" water main
- Started the First Phase of the Water System Hydraulic Model
- New Source Well 12 – Modflow Report of the Monomoy Lens well field submitted to MassDEP on the new proposed well location, this will be a new source, Well #12 in North Harwich.
- Route 28 Water Main Replacement Project– Design of the Route 28 Water Main Replacement Project is complete; the project is scheduled to be bid in February 2026. This project includes the replacement of an old 1930-1940s era 8" & 10" cast iron water main with a new 12" Ductile Iron water main from Division Street to South Street. Also included is a horizontally directional drilled water main beneath the Herring River improving the resiliency of the West Harwich service area.
- Route 28 Dry Sewer Pipe Project/Water Main – Design of the Route 28 Dry Sewer Pipe Project is complete, and construction in connection with the MassDOT repaving project, the project was bid November 2025, with construction starting in Spring/Fall of 2026. This project includes the installation of a low-pressure sewer main along Route 28 from Division Street to the Herring River. A 12" water main replacement will also be part of the MassDOT Route 28 project.
- Phase 3 Wastewater Collections System – Construction started for Phase 3 Wastewater Collections System in East Harwich in December 2024. The Phase 3 collections system is intended to address nitrogen impacting the Round Cove and Pleasant Bay sub-watersheds.

- Phase 3A Wastewater Collection System- Design of the Phase 3A Wastewater Collection System is scheduled for Construction Bid in early 2026.

Water/Sewer Rates and Financial Overview

With the department taking on larger capital improvement projects like the Route 28 Water Main Replacement Project, it is anticipated that water rates will need to be increased in FY27 to support the increased debt service payments. Sewer Rates are expected to remain unchanged in FY27.

The stance of the Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners, with the support of the Department, is to keep rates fair and equitable. Rate increases become necessary when revenues are unable to keep up with inflation, increases to operational and maintenance expenses and/or when a new capital project must be funded. To see what's on the horizon for capital projects for the next five (5) years, please refer to the Capital Planning section in our report.

In addition to water rates and services, the Department continues to look for other revenue sources as well as ways to run more efficiently and economically.

FY25 Water Financial Summary

Expenses

Salary and Wages	1,351,987
Operational Expenses	1,752,369
OPEB Contribution	50,000
Debt	655,513
Indirect Expenses; Insurance & Employee Benefits	861,327
Total Expenses	4,671,196

Revenues

Water Rates & Recurring Services	4,638,038
Service Repairs & Site Visits	18,377
Markouts & Final Reads	20,941
Service Tight Protection Plan	101,723
Solar Revenue	370,810
Backflow Inspection	27,595
Water Service Installation and Renewals	203,093
Late Fees, Interest, Lien Collection & Penalties	76,981
Wireless Communications Lease	148,046
Investment Revenue	34,680
Total Revenues	5,640,282

Water Enterprise Fund Balance Summary

FY25 Fund Balance	2,611,343
FY25 Abatements & Adjustments	-15,103

FY25 Wastewater Budget Summary

Expenses

Salary and Wages	193,702
Operational Expenses	404,668
Indirect Expenses; Insurance & Employee Benefits	62,148
Total Expenses	660,518

Revenues

User Fees	210,187
Investment Revenue	7,123
Total Revenues	217,310

Capital Planning

The Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners and Department staff continues to evaluate the aging infrastructure, water consumption forecasts, revenue projections, and the current debt schedule to identify and plan for the future capital needs of the Department.

5-Year **Water** Capital Plan:

- Fiscal Year 2027
 - New Well Construction & MassDEP Permitting, Vehicle Replacement
- Fiscal Year 2028
 - Vehicle Replacement
- Fiscal Year 2029
 - Water Main Replacement on Mill Road & Harbor Road
 - New Well 12 Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
 - Vehicle Replacement
- Fiscal Year 2030
 - 196 Chatham Road Improvements-Space Bldg/Garage
 - Vehicle Replacement
- Fiscal Year 2031

5-Year **Wastewater** Capital Plan:

- Fiscal Year 2026
 - Vehicle Replacement

System Maintenance

Regular distribution maintenance helps minimize the impact on residents and businesses during repairs. For this reason, the Department continues its standard maintenance/monitoring programs, which include:

- **Hydrant Maintenance-** Evaluate hydrant coatings & re-paint where necessary to prevent corrosion & remove and lubricate hydrant cups to maintain ease of access in the event the hydrant needs to be utilized for fire suppression
- **Valve Maintenance-** Vacuum valve boxes to guarantee access to the valves operating nut & exercise the valve by opening and closing to verify it is in working order
- **Well & Pumps-** Take manual drawdown readings to check the wells specific capacity, which is used to check the wells current capacity to historical data. This information is used to determine if the well needs cleaning & redevelopment, or to verify the pump is functioning at the capacity it was designed
- **Water Storage Tanks-** In addition to the daily site visits, monthly tank inspection reports are completed to document a more thorough evaluation of tank conditions. These monthly reports combined with our contracted annual inspection are used to predict future maintenance needs
- **Water Meter Replacement-** The Department upgrades & replaces all customer meters 15 years or older

Water System

The original water system was established in 1936. Major expansion projects were undertaken in the 1950s, late 1960s and again in the late 1970s, these expansions made the water distribution system what it is today.

The Water Department operation consists of 14 pump stations, approximately 400 acres of well fields/watershed protection areas, 5 corrosion control facilities, 2 elevated and 1 ground-level water storage tanks and 2 Greensand Water Treatment facilities which provide service to 10,187 metered accounts, 131 fire sprinkler accounts and 1,397 fire hydrants for fire protection.

Water Withdrawal

The Water Department pumped 784,222,691 gallons of water from our wellfields during 2025 which reflects a decrease of 6.2 million gallons over 2024. Most of the water pumped was withdrawn from Chatham Road and Depot Road wells.

Water Quality

The Harwich Water Department is constantly striving to provide its customers with the best water possible. The water provided to the residents of Harwich is tested numerous times a month for a variety of contaminants. Harwich Water Department continues to provide water that meets or exceeds State and Federal standards. The results of this testing are located within the Annual Water Quality Report on the Department website. Iron and Manganese levels in the untreated source water have, in the past, caused unfavorable aesthetic qualities in the water. Sources containing these impurities were infrequently pumped. Since the addition of the Bruce Cahoon Greensand Water Treatment Facility and North Westgate Treatment Facility, these minerals are no longer affecting the water quality.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus in fertilizer are the greatest concern to water quality. Lawns need less fertilizer than advertised and there are multitudes of fertilizing alternatives available today. While the water quality in Harwich is excellent, let's do our best to keep it that way and protect our precious resource.

Service Tight Protection Plan

As property owner, you are responsible for the repair and maintenance of your water service, and until a problem occurs, you could incur thousands of dollars in repair costs. Harwich Water offers a Service Tight Protection Plan which covers the costs of repairs to your service in the event of a sudden leak. The cost is \$17 per quarter for an annual fee of \$68. You can enroll and learn more by visiting harwichwater.com or by calling the department for a brochure.

Drought Management and Conservation

Groundwater levels within the Monomoy Lens were low in 2025, this in combination with an unseasonably dry summer mitigated the need to implement mandatory water restrictions. Regional drought declarations are made by the Massachusetts Drought Task Force who evaluates precipitation, streamflow, groundwater levels, reservoir levels, fire danger, and crop moisture. The Water Department has drought management signs throughout the Harwich Community. Please refer to the signs around town as well as notices on our website for the most up to date information on drought notification and water restrictions.

We continue to encourage our customers to be diligent in conserving water even if the supply is abundant. It is important to keep in mind that the average person uses 80-100 gallons of water per day on the following activities:

Bathing & Hygiene	15 gallons per day	Kitchen	7 gallons per day
Housekeeping	1 gallon per day	Laundry	8 gallons per day
Irrigation/Watering	70 gallons per day	Toilet	19 gallons per day

To review your metered water bill, divide your water usage by the number of days in the billing period (approximately 90 days) and by the number of residents of your household to determine your average.

High Consumption and Irrigation Systems

Most of our high consumption calls come in after the October bill is received. When we receive these calls, the irrigation system usually has been shut down for the season and the seasonal home is vacant. We cannot stress enough the importance of becoming familiar with your irrigation systems to anticipate this expense. You may need the help of your irrigation company to determine the number of zones, number of heads in each zone, frequency of zones running, and how much water is used for a full cycle and/or each day, each week, each month, etc. Consumption should be monitored on a regular basis by checking your water meter reading so if an issue exists it can be corrected immediately. All water that passes through the meter is the responsibility of the homeowner, and who wants to pay for water that is lost?

We would also like to remind our customers who do have an irrigation system that a testable backflow device must be installed on the line that feeds your irrigation system. This device is put in place to protect contaminants from being pulled back into the public water supply.

Wastewater Collections System

Construction of the wastewater collections system began in 2019 and received approval from MassDEP to initiate operation for the Contract 1 service area in October 2021, April 2022 for the Contract 2 service, and December 2024 for the Contract 3 area. The collections system includes sewer stubs for 472 parcels in the Upper & Lower Muddy Creek sub-watersheds and 5 wastewater pumping stations. There were 54 sewer services installed in 2025 bringing the total properties connected to 393, with 64 properties remaining to be connected.

Conclusion

As we begin 2026, the Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners would like to thank the dedicated staff and further extend our appreciation to all Town Departments, Town Committees, Boards and Residents for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners

Noreen Donahue, *Chair*

Allin Thompson, *Clerk*

Robert Young, *Vice Chair*

Judith Underwood, *Commissioner*

John Gough, *Commissioner*

Water & Wastewater Superintendent

Jason Trepanier

Report of the **Cape Light Compact**

Cape Light Compact JPE is an intergovernmental organization consisting of the 21 towns on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and Duke's County. The Compact's mission is to serve our 205,000 customers through the delivery of proven energy efficiency programs, effective consumer advocacy, and renewable competitive electricity supply.

Effective July 1, 2017, the Cape Light Compact reorganized itself as a joint powers entity pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 4A1/2, becoming the first joint powers entity in Massachusetts. Reorganizing as a joint powers entity protects member towns from potential liabilities and mandates greater financial accountability through expanded reporting requirements to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and member Towns, and designation of Treasury functions to an independent entity.

POWER SUPPLY

During calendar year 2025 (CY25), the Compact's electricity supplier for all residential, commercial, and industrial customers was NextEra Energy Services of Massachusetts (NextEra). The Compact is pleased that our residential price in CY25 remained at least one cent below the utility's basic service residential price, delivering savings for our residential customers, while also being 100% renewable.

The Compact has been a green aggregation since January 2017, matching Compact electricity supply customers' annual electricity usage above the mandated state requirements with voluntary renewable energy certificates (RECs) to provide a 100% renewable product. By retiring RECs to match the Compact's customers' usage, Compact customers are financially supporting renewable energy resources, including resources located on Cape Cod. In addition, NextEra deposits all premiums paid for voluntary RECs, plus their supplier and retail fees (expected to total over \$3 million per year), into an irrevocable trust fund to be used solely for the development of new renewable energy resources. By purchasing electricity through the Compact, all Compact electricity supply customers are supporting renewable energy and acting locally to combat climate change.

As part of its electricity supply product, the Compact receives energy and RECs from a solar photovoltaic (PV) project, Farmington Solar, in Maine. The Compact entered into a long-term fixed price contract for energy and Class 1 RECs from just under 5 MW of this project as part of the Compact's commitment to renewable energy and price stability.

At a regional level, New England continues to face electricity pricing spikes during the winter months. Over the last fifteen years, New England has greatly increased its reliance on natural gas for electricity production; however, natural gas pipeline capacity has not substantially increased during that same period. This creates a shortage of natural gas for electricity production during winter cold snaps, and therefore increases prices for electric generators, which is passed on to all New England electricity supply customers. Until such time as this issue is resolved, either through additional natural gas, renewable, or electric transmission infrastructure, demand reduction, or other targeted programs, the possibility of future high winter pricing remains, and as such, consumers should still expect seasonal pricing fluctuations for the foreseeable future.

When compared to past years (pre-2022), electricity supply prices remain elevated across both winter and summer months and are unlikely to decline over the next few years. The Compact will continue to seek ways to help customers reduce their electricity costs through innovative energy efficiency programs to mitigate the impacts of higher winter electricity pricing.

As of December 2025, the Compact had approximately 8,670 electric accounts in the Town of Harwich on its power supply.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

Since 1997, Cape Light Compact has advocated for the ratepayers of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard at the local and state level. In CY25, the Compact focused on the following regulatory proceedings at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU):

- Grid modernization (DPU docket 21-80):
 - The Compact's participation in this docket focused on ensuring that customers on the Cape and Vineyard are able to benefit from Eversource's proposed grid modernization and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) investments. The Compact's key concern is that municipal aggregations and their competitive suppliers be able to access the data available through smart meters in order to design and offer time varying electric rates (TVR) to their customers.
 - In CY25, the Compact participated in DPU led technical sessions and submitted comments to the DPU as part of ongoing discussion around TVR and data access for municipal aggregators and their competitive suppliers.

- Eversource Electric Sector Modernization Plan (DPU Docket 24-10):
 - Eversource filed its Electric Sector Modernization Plan (ESMP) with the DPU in January 2024. The Compact participated in this docket advocating for a number of items including ensuring a timely process for the implementation of TVR, approving the Cape Cod CIP, and directing Eversource to report on the impacts of the ESMP on double poles.
 - In CY25, the DPU issued an Order approving Eversource's ESMP. Many of the issues of interest to the Compact are being addressed through Phase II of the proceeding which began in January 2025 and is ongoing.
- Energy Burden Investigation (DPU Docket 24-15):
 - The Compact participated in the DPU's investigation into Energy Burden by bringing together a group of stakeholders to discuss the issue. The Compact submitted two rounds of comments focusing on energy affordability issues faced by Cape and Vineyard customers to the DPU based on its stakeholder session.
 - The Compact is participating in working group meetings as part of this ongoing proceeding.
- Pole Attachments and Conduit Access on Public Rights of Way (DPU Docket 25-10/DTC Docket 25-1):
 - The Compact's participation in this docket has focused on double poles, a key concern for the towns within the Compact's service territory. The Compact requested feedback in the form of a survey from the towns regarding their priorities in this docket and submitted comments and a presentation to the DPU based on this feedback.
 - The proceeding is ongoing.
- Residential Seasonal Heat-Pump Rate (DPU Docket 25-55):
 - The Compact participated in this docket to ensure that customers who install heat pumps through the Compact's energy efficiency program are made aware of and are automatically enrolled in Eversource's seasonal heat pump rate.
 - The seasonal heat pump rate is on the delivery side of the electric bill. It will take effect on November 1, 2025.

In the fall of 2022, the Compact redesigned its Cape & Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO) to align with legislation that passed as part of the Massachusetts Climate Act in the summer of 2022. The Compact

filed its redesigned CVEO with the DPU in November 2022 and received approval in January 2023. The Compact began implementing the program in June of 2023 and completed installations in the spring of 2025. The redesigned CVEO served 55 non-gas heated low- and moderate-income participants, installing cold climate heat pumps and solar PV. 12 customers also received battery storage.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Funding for the energy efficiency programs (i.e. energy audits for homes and businesses, rebates on the purchase of energy efficient appliances and energy education in our schools) comes from the monthly customer “energy conservation” charge on each customers’ electric bill, which is multiplied by the number of kilowatt hours used during the month (\$0.03273 for residential customers and \$0.02416 for commercial and industrial customers).

Jan – Nov 2025	# of Participants	Customer Savings	kWh Saved	Rebates/Incentives Paid to Customers
Low Income	79	\$3,597	17,987	\$853,065
Residential	622	\$38,714	193,571	\$679,929
Commercial	32	\$19,933	99,665	\$89,102
Total	733	\$62,244	311,223	\$1,622,096

Note: The data above does not include activity from December 2025 due to the date of this publication. Please visit www.capelightcompact.org/reports/ for more information.

Harwich Representative – Valerie Bell

Report of the **Harwich Cemetery Commission**

The Harwich Cemetery Commission is dedicated to the care, maintenance, preservation, and continuous improvement of more than 98 acres of cemetery grounds, monuments, and the Marceline Arboretum. As stewards of these sacred spaces, the Commission ensures that the town's cemeteries serve the needs of Harwich residents and their families, reflecting the social and cultural diversity of our community.

Our primary objective is to preserve the history and beauty of Harwich's cemeteries while planning responsibly for future growth. This includes maintaining existing cemetery sites and exploring new interment services in a financially sustainable manner. The Commission remains committed to providing a respectful and serene environment for those who have passed, while ensuring the long-term viability of cemetery operations.

The Commission supports and provides guidance to the Cemetery Administrator and oversees the prioritization of annual expenditures funded through revenues generated by lot sales and cemetery services. In addition, the Commission establishes policies and regulations governing the public use, operation, and maintenance of the town's burial grounds.

The Harwich Cemetery Commission consists of three appointed residents who oversee 17 cemeteries throughout the town: Steven H. Conner, Chair, Cynthia A. Eldredge, Commissioner and Robert B. Thompson, Commissioner.

All Commissioners are duly sworn and current with state ethics training. The Commission meets monthly, typically on the first Thursday of each month. Attendance and participation remain strong, ensuring consistent oversight and informed decision-making.

The Commission would like to extend its sincere thanks to Robert B. Thompson, who will be resigning effective January 1, 2026, after serving since 2020. Rob has been an invaluable member of the Commission and was instrumental in establishing the Perpetual Care Funds with Rockland Trust, strengthening long-term financial stewardship through improved investment returns.

Burial and Cremation Trends In 2025, the Commission observed a continued increase in cremation burials. A total of 72 interments were conducted: 55 cremation burials and 17 full-body burials

This trend reflects a broader national shift toward cremation, often chosen for its affordability, flexibility, and environmental considerations. While traditional burials remain an important option, the growing preference for cremation continues to shape planning and service needs within Harwich cemeteries. The Commission remains committed to adapting facilities and services to meet these evolving preferences in a dignified and respectful manner.

Evergreen Cemetery and the Walk of Remembrance

In 2025, significant progress was made in enhancing Evergreen Cemetery and honoring the service of Harwich veterans. The Walk of Remembrance, beginning at Veterans Circle, was completed and now meanders throughout the cemetery.

- Aggregate concrete ADA-accessible pathway installed by Lawrence Lynch
- Pathway sealed and backfilled with loam by the Department of Public Works
- 6,500 square feet hydroseeded with sun and shade mix by Matthew A. Eldredge Landscaping
- Granite step installed and lettered by Henry T. Crosby Monuments

This pathway serves as a lasting tribute to Harwich residents who served in the armed forces, beginning with the Revolutionary War and extending through future generations.

Revolutionary and Civil War Memorials

The Revolutionary and Civil War Memorials, funded through the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), will be the first memorials installed along the Walk of Remembrance. Extensive historical research resulted in a verified list of more than 420 Revolutionary War soldiers, refined from an initial list of 250. This process included identifying additional qualified soldiers and removing those who were determined to have served in surrounding towns.

Each soldier's service was verified through multiple sources, including History of Harwich, Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors, Pension files, DAR, SAR records and Fold3 archives.

An advertisement listing the soldiers' names was placed in the Cape Cod Chronicle to invite public review. The Commission encourages anyone with corrections or additional information to contact Robbin Kelley, Cemetery Administrator, to ensure historical accuracy.

The Revolutionary War Memorial went out to bid in December 2025 and is expected to be awarded in January 2026, with installation later in the year.

Additional Improvements to Evergreen Cemetery was the installation of new signage for Peace Way and McKenney Way.

Veterans Day Ceremony: In November, the Commission hosted its Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Circle. Paul V. Doane, Lieutenant USNR, served as Master of Ceremonies. The keynote address was delivered by Anthony Schiavi, "Call Sign KIMO," Air Force Brigadier General (Ret.), former Commander of the 102nd Fighter Wing and 102nd Intelligence Wing at Joint Base Cape Cod.

Special recognition was given to Alphonso Palmer Rogers, a two-time Purple Heart recipient and WWII U.S. Navy veteran, by Representative Hadley Luddy and Senator Julian Cyr. Earlier in the year, a portion of Route 28 in Harwich was officially designated the Alphonso Palmer Rogers Highway.

The Commission extends its gratitude to:

- Rev. Dr. Ernest L. Vermont, U.S. Army Chaplain Corps (Ret.), for the invocation and benediction
- Harwich Town Band, directed by Tom Jahnke
- Monomoy Regional High School Select Choir, led by Rosemaire Richards
- Piper Joe Hayes, who concluded the ceremony with Amazing Grace

South Harwich Cemetery

CPC Article #35 (TM2024) funded gravestone restoration work at South Harwich Cemetery. The project was awarded to John Fougere and completed under budget CPC award: \$23,000, Final cost: \$19,500 and Returned to CPC: \$3,500.

Completed work included: Repair of 15 monuments with fractures or damage, Foundation repair or resetting of 44 monuments and Cleaning and consolidation of 29 leaning memorials.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery

- Temporary repairs completed on the stockade fence in December with additional sections scheduled for replacement in spring 2026
- Continued sale of burial lots along the newly created pathway on Elm Avenue Extension

Marceline Arboretum – Plant Species Enhancement

Native plant species were added to the Marceline Arboretum through a collaborative service project with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Design and planting were led by Emrys Odell, with support from AmeriCorps members.

Selected species were chosen for their ability to thrive locally and support pollinators and wildlife, enhancing biodiversity and long-term ecological health. The Commission extends sincere thanks to Emrys Odell for her year of service.

- Island Pond Cemetery
- Removal of slate and veteran memorial rock from the former Veterans Memorial on West Main Avenue North by DPW
- Rock relocated to Evergreen Cemetery and placed at the end of the Walk of Remembrance
- Slate repurposed for the native species garden
- Area loamed, seeded, and stabilized with a rock wall

This location is planned as the future site of a cremation niche wall.

In 2025, Harwich cemeteries benefited from Eagle Scout project. The Commission extends special thanks to Michael Theoharidis for his project at East Harwich Union Cemetery.

Michael coordinated the installation of new split-rail fencing, organizing Troop 76 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Jon Ungerland and Committee Chair John Cummings. This project significantly improved the protection and appearance of historic gravestones.

A new entrance sign was created and installed at Baptist Church Cemetery (est. 1816). Produced by Plymouth Sign Co., this sign is the Commission's first PVC sign, offering increased durability and reduced maintenance compared to traditional hand-carved signs.

Gravestone Cleaning and Volunteers The Commission gratefully acknowledges volunteers Steven and Kim Gonzales, Debbie Merigan, Cheryl West, and others who assisted with gravestone cleaning across multiple cemeteries.

Through the Senior Work-Off Program, Marla Parney provided valuable administrative assistance, particularly with organizing Revolutionary and Civil War soldier records.

The Commission extends its deepest appreciation to the cemetery maintenance staff and Director Lincoln Hooper. Jim Stratton and Peter

Smith consistently demonstrate exceptional dedication and professionalism in maintaining cemetery grounds. Their work is frequently praised by the public and is essential to preserving the dignity and tranquility of Harwich's cemeteries.

Together, the Cemetery Commission, staff, volunteers, and community partners continue to ensure that Harwich's cemeteries remain places of reflection, respect, and historical preservation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven H. Conner, Chair

Cynthia A. Eldredge

Robert B. Thompson

Robbin Kelley, Administrator

Report of the **Conservation Commission**

The charge of the Harwich Conservation Commission is to uphold the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Harwich Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. The Commission is also responsible for managing all town-owned lands placed under its care and custody.

As of December 31, 2025, the Commission consisted of six full members and no alternate members. The Commission is authorized to have up to seven full members and two alternate members. All members and staff remain current on required ethics training. While quorum was maintained throughout the year, the Commission continues to encourage interested residents to consider serving, as additional members would further support continuity and resilience in the event of recusals.

The Conservation Commission meets twice per month on the first and third Wednesday evenings. During 2025, the Conservation Department staff and Conservation Commission issued or addressed the following:

- 96 Administrative Review Permits for minor work within outer buffer zones (50–100 feet from wetlands);
- 23 Requests for Determination of Applicability;
- 38 Orders of Conditions;
- 7 Amended Orders of Conditions;
- 6 Changes in Plan;
- 2 Areas of Resource Delineation; and
- 23 Certificates of Compliance.

Overall permitting activity remained steady and consistent with recent years, reflecting continued development pressure and regulatory oversight needs.

In 2025, we had 5 separate violations across Town dealing with Conservation. Violations of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Harwich Wetlands Bylaw have declined this year, reflecting the Conservation Commission's continued emphasis on public education and outreach. While violations still occur, enhanced education regarding wetlands regulations, the importance of buffer zones, and the ecological value of native vegetation has contributed to improved compliance. Through workshops, community events, and direct engagement during enforcement actions, the Commission continues to pair regulatory oversight with education to reduce impacts to wetland resource areas and promote long-term environmental stewardship.

In 2025, the Conservation Commission and Conservation Department undertook several notable initiatives:

- Finalized the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan through a collaborative, interdepartmental effort involving the Planning Department, Natural Resources Department, and Conservation Commission, strengthening coordination and long-term stewardship of Harwich's natural and recreational resources.
- The Conservation Department received Community Preservation Act Funds for the design and permitting of a raised boardwalk leading to the pedestrian bridge on North Road within the Bells Neck Conservation Area. This project will address public safety concerns, improve accessibility, and reduce erosion and marsh damage caused by foot traffic along the existing path.
- The Conservation Commission hosted three ecological landscaping workshops, providing residents with practical guidance on native plantings, soil health, and alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides to protect water quality and wetland resources. "The workshops were motivated in part by the need to address concerns about the use and/or overuse of fertilizers and pesticides on Harwich residential, commercial, and municipal properties."
- The Department continued its partnerships with the Health Department and Cultural Director to host the annual *Harwich Health and Environment Fair* in the spring, and with the Health Department and Community Center to host the *Disaster Preparedness Fair* in the fall. Both events were well received and remain important opportunities for public education and community engagement.

The Commission and staff continue to manage more than 1,000 acres of conservation land with the support of citizen volunteers, AmeriCorps Cape Cod, the Harwich Conservation Trust, and the Department of Public Works, all of whom the Commission gratefully acknowledges.

The Conservation Commission welcomes new Commission member Susan Cyr, Assistant Conservation Agent Meg Salmon, and Executive Assistant Lisa Shaw. Each has already made valuable contributions to the work of the Department and Commission. There were no departing Commission members in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ketchum
Chairman, Conservation Commission

Report of the **Natural Resources Department**

Shellfish Propagation

The Shellfish Lab, Harwich's shellfish upweller located at Wychmere Town Pier, produced over half a million shellfish in the 2025 season. A combination of funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Barnstable County Municipal Shellfish Propagation Program were used to purchase 351,000 R3 quahog seed from Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) and 200,000 R8 oyster seed from Merrymeeting Shellfish Company.

The facility was equipped with new pumps and intake hoses, as well as additional plumbing and infrastructure improvements. Despite running at a limited capacity, the Shellfish Lab had a very productive season from July through October. Seasonal staff, including Shellfish Lab instructor Liam Mertens-Harker, interns Ella Martinelle and Olivia Burke, and volunteers John & Lee Bathelt and Sean Hill, were instrumental in daily operations and free public tours. Educational programs included field trips with Monomoy Regional Middle School's fifth grade class, Monomoy's SHORE Program, and Harwich Conservation Trust's Preschool Explorers.

Quahog and oyster seed were broadcast in Pleasant Bay, Round Cove, Herring River, Allen Harbor/Oyster Creek, Wychmere Harbor, Saquatucket Harbor, and around the harbor jetties in Nantucket Sound.

Shellfishing & Permits

Recreational shellfish permit categories included taxpayers, senior taxpayers, non-taxpayers, and one-day. Per M.G.L. Ch 130 Sec 52, veterans are eligible for shellfish permits at resident rates. Anyone under the age of 16 is allowed to shellfish provided they are shellfishing someone who holds a valid recreational shellfish permit. The recreational shellfish limit is ten quarts per week. Commercial permits are resident-only and available on a limited basis.

DNR thanks Volunteer Shellfish Warden Greg Garber for his assistance patrolling the flats.

2025 Shellfish Permits

Permit Type	Cost	Number Issued
Taxpayer	\$30	126
Non-Taxpayer	\$70	33
Senior Taxpayer (65+)	\$15	270
One-Day	\$30	68
Commercial	\$60	9
Replacements	\$5	2
Total permits		508

Herring Runs

DNR completed several maintenance projects with the support of MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) fishway team including replacement of all boards in Hinckleys Pond fishway, installation of a new staff gauge at Hinckleys Pond, replacement of all boards in the side sluiceway at West Reservoir, and repairs to cement and installation of new boards at Johnson's Flume (West Reservoir). DNR collaborated with MA DMF, Harwich Conservation Department, Harwich Conservation Trust and AmeriCorps to complete several workdays at different times of year to remove debris and blockages to ensure fish passage. Low pond levels, caused by ongoing drought conditions, have resulted in considerable management challenges and fry leaving upstream ponds later than normal. The eel ramp located off Bank Street, managed by DMF and assisted by Harwich Natural Resources, continues to help migrating eels into Grass Pond.

A River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plan for Harwich was approved in 2022, but the fishery remains closed at this time.

Spring counts from MA DMF electronic fish counter at Johnson's Flume (West Reservoir off Depot St.):

Year	Count	Year	Count
2025	281,935	2020	905,078
2024	452,643	2019	1,223,211
2023	520,809	2018	882,630
2022	291,200	2017	284,936
2021	436,090	2016	344,133

Spring counts from Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) volunteer herring count program at Hinckleys Pond fishway:

Year	Count	Year	Count
2025	20,196	2020	No Count
2024	41,689	2019	67,031
2023	161,962	2018	47,250
2022	47,621	2017	12,194
2021	No Count	2016	54,188

Water Quality Sampling

For over twenty years, DNR staff and volunteers have been collecting water quality data in Harwich's estuaries and ponds. Water bodies are sampled for nitrates, phosphates, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature and coliform levels. In 2025, Harwich Ponds Coalition (HPC) volunteers sampled Aunt Edies Pond, Bucks Pond, Hinckleys Pond, John Joseph Pond, Sand Pond, Skinequit Pond, and West Reservoir. HPC's 30+ water samples and additional scientific metrics are a significant contribution to the robust time series of pond water quality data. Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) conducted additional water quality sampling at Cornelius Pond, Hawksnest Pond, Sand Lake, and Walkers Pond. DNR staff sampled all saltwater and estuarine sites. MA DMF, with the support of DNR, completed water quality sampling in all shellfishing areas. Harwich also participates in the Pleasant Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program through the Pleasant Bay Alliance. Thank you to volunteers Tina Maloney, Dave Bennett, Gayle Williams, Lance Neumann, Patti Sandri, and Suzanne Leahy for sampling Pleasant Bay.

Based on the most recent data, DNR is prioritizing the following for water quality improvement: Hinckleys Pond, West Reservoir, Pleasant Bay, Herring River, and all three harbors.

Cyanobacteria Monitoring

Monitoring for harmful cyanobacteria blooms was contracted through APCC. Regular sampling was conducted at the following ponds: Bucks, Cornelius, Hawksnest, Hinckleys, Josephs, Sand Lake, Sand Pond, Skinequit, and West Reservoir. From the 94 sampling events, most ponds were in the "acceptable" risk tier. Long Pond and Seymour were sampled regularly at locations in Brewster, with supplemental sampling of Seymour in Harwich. Bucks Pond, Sand Pond, Seymour Pond, and West Reservoir had sampling events in the "potential for concern" risk tier, resulting in Town advisory warnings posted at the respective locations.

Appreciation

Natural Resources appreciates the contributions of many other departments in accomplishing our work. Thank you to Harwich Conservation, Fire, Harbormaster, Health, Police, and Recreation for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Ridenour
Natural Resources Director

Report of the **Department of Public Works**

I hereby submit my Annual Report on the activities of the Department of Public Works in 2025.

Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) are one way to maximize our limited maintenance dollars with State and Federal funds, where the Town is responsible for engineering and designing a project. Once the design is completed and accepted by the State, the project becomes theirs, with MassDOT bidding, awarding, and overseeing all aspects of the project until its completion. The Town currently has four MassDOT projects in the works with one nearly completed and three having target dates of 2026.

The Azalea Drive Bridge project is part of MassDOT's Small Bridge Replacement Program, where DOT pays for the entire project, including design, with the Town is responsible to secure the Right of Way (ROW) from the abutters. All of the residents abutting the project were amenable to the idea of donating the access to a small portion of their property to allow for the bridge replacement project. I personally want to thank the seven property owners whose cooperation saved the Town a great deal of staff time and money. This \$4M project was awarded on 11/1/2022 to ET&L Corporation with construction starting shortly thereafter. Although the project appears completed, there still remains a small punch list of items that MassDOT has in the works and should be completed in the spring of 2026.

In 2015 the Board of Selectmen wrote MassDOT requesting that a sidewalk be constructed on Route 28 (a State owned road), from Harwich Port (Bank Street) to Saquatucket Harbor. The May 2021 Annual Town Meeting approved \$200k to fund engineering for this project, which was augmented by Paul Manning, a Harwich Port resident, who donated \$250k for this purpose. On January 17, 2023, MassDOT hosted the 25% Design Public Hearing at the Harwich Community Center that was well attended and ended up adding approximately 400' of sidewalk on the north side from Outer Cape Healthcare to Gorham Road due to feedback from residents during that meeting. On December 2, 2024, MassDOT held a preconstruction meeting with Lawrence Lynch Co., who was the low bidder on this \$2,572,850 sidewalk project. The contractor began construction on March 17, 2025 and had most of the sidewalk, minus the creek crossing near the harbor, installed before the summer shutdown. This past fall, the utility companies set new poles and have been moving their lines to the new poles. This work is anticipated to be completed winter / spring of 2026

with sidewalk construction beginning early spring. There is a very good likelihood that the sidewalk could be completed by June 2026, but that is only if everything remains on schedule.

In 2016, I proposed pursuing another TIP project on Route 28 in West Harwich, from the Dennis Town line to the Herring River Bridge. The primary impetus in proposing this project was that the Town of Dennis recently improved the Dennis Port area of Route 28. Since their project excluded the traffic signals at the Town line, Harwich and Dennis made a joint application to MassDOT that would upgrade both traffic signals and hopefully alleviate the long backups that occur at this intersection during the summer months. The joint project was accepted by MassDOT, bid and awarded this past fall, has a current construction estimate of \$16,561,783 and is slated to begin construction winter 2026. The plan calls for brick sidewalk and period lighting on both sides of the road that will emulate Dennis Port, 5' bike lanes, new drainage system and 11' travel lanes. The project will probably take 2 to 3 years to complete, although the MassDOT contract provides 5 years to finish.

In 2018, the Town applied for and received a grant from the Safe Routes to School program to reconstruct the sidewalks around the Harwich Elementary School. This \$2.4M project is entirely funded with State and Federal funds with the Town's responsibility being to secure the ROW. The original scope of work was to remove the old sidewalk on the three roads surrounding the elementary school (South Street, Sisson Road and Main Street) and replace them with 5' modern, ADA compliant sidewalks. On September 13, 2022, DOT held a virtual meeting, presented the current draft plans and took public comment. After that meeting MassDOT adjusted the plans to have 5' sidewalks on Main Street and Sisson Road and an 8' multimodal path on South Street. MassDOT held the 25% Design Public Hearing on June 12, 2024, at the Harwich Community Center, which went very smoothly. The Harwich DPW began meeting with abutters to discuss the ROW in the fall of 2025 and secured a Chapter 90 project to fund the associated costs. Unfortunately, MassDOT review process caught some inconsistencies with the Right of Way plans and we were put on hold for 3 months until it was reconciled. The ROW process is anticipated to be completed winter of 2026 with an advertisement to secure a contractor to follow. The earliest construction would start would be late spring / summer of 2026.

Another exciting project that the DPW is working on is the Route 124 culvert replacement project. This project will replace the culvert that goes under Route 124 adjacent to Seymour Road and the Cape Cod Rail Trail owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

To date, the Town has received grants in the amount of \$89,913 from Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) (2023) and \$246,150 from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (2024). NRCS has agreed to fund 75% of the construction cost for this project, which is estimated to be \$5,253,000. My intent is to apply to MVP to cover the 25% of the construction cost that is not covered by the NRCS grant, as I did with the preliminary design of this culvert replacement project. With the Federal shutdown, this project was placed on hold last fall, but it is anticipated to begin the design phase of the project this spring.

One project that is being funded entirely with Chapter 90 (gas tax money that MassDOT distributes to municipalities based on road miles and few other metrics) is the reconfiguration of the Route 39 / Chatham Road intersection. As anyone who has ever used that intersection can attest, it is challenging to navigate at best. The Select Board made addressing this intersection a priority about a year ago and I am happy to announce that a contract was awarded in December to Richard D'Ambrosia Inc. in the amount of \$326,295 for its reconstruction. It is anticipated that construction should begin in March and hopefully be completed before summer.

The following briefly describes accomplishments and duties of each department within the DPW. It should be noted that during hazardous conditions, such as snowstorms, hurricanes and tornados, all Department personnel function as one cohesive unit for the duration of the event and subsequent cleanup.

Building Maintenance Department

The Building Maintenance Department consists of four full-time employees. They are responsible for routine and preventative maintenance of over 35 Town-owned buildings, with over 260k square feet of space. There are over 40 additional areas that are also maintained by the department such as the Town gardens, beach stairs and walkways etc.... They are also responsible for the setup and breakdown for Town Meetings and Elections. In addition to routine work, this department completed several building projects during 2025:

- Winter storms with moon tides and high winds destroyed the majority of the Town's stairways that access the public beaches. All required extensive inspections and repairs which were completed prior to the 4th of July holiday.
- Completed another Green Communities project at the Community Center. The cooling systems for the Recreation and COA sides of the building were replaced with high efficiency variable refrigerant

flow heat pumps. This was originally a \$256,259.00 project that ended up costing the taxpayers \$26,561.00 after incentives.

- Continued with minor renovations to Brooks Academy. Repaired walls and painted all the downstairs, and refinished the wood flooring and staircase.
- With the weather cooperating, we were able to perform repairs and paint the interior and exterior of all of the beach bathrooms.
- This department also received over 507 and completed over 500 work orders (requests for service) during the year. These included repairing and managing the HVAC systems, broken windows, light fixtures, and locks on various Town buildings, repairing bathrooms, fixing leaks in ceilings, replacing broken tiles, moving furniture and office equipment, and coordinating repair services with outside contractors when appropriate.

Custodial Department

The Custodial Department, which consists of one part time and six full-time employees, has been responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the Town Hall, Community Center, Police Department, Harbormaster Administration, Library, 204 Sisson Road Municipal Building, Albro House, DPW, Transfer Station, and Cranberry Valley Golf Course.

Routine maintenance for this department includes:

- Sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, dusting, waxing, polishing, buffing, and cleaning of floors and carpets
- Cleaning and sanitizing restrooms and locker rooms, replenishing supplies
- Cleaning, dusting furniture, walls, fixtures, drinking fountains, blinds, lights, etc....
- Opening, closing, unlocking, locking the facilities as needed
- Arranging the facilities for planned events (i.e. setup/breakdown of tables, chairs)
- Maintaining building security during activities

Disposal Area

The Harwich Transfer Station/Recycle Center is open seven days a week from 8AM-4PM, 362 days a year.

Harwich continues to participate in the Barnstable County Sharps Collection Program. This service provides patrons (free of charge) with designated sharps collection containers that can be filled with contaminated hypodermic needles and given to the Transfer Station attendant.

The main component of the facility is the removal of municipal solid waste (MSW), recycling materials, and other waste materials from the Town. The MSW is loaded into 100-yard trailers and transported to the SEMASS facility in West Wareham, Massachusetts, approximately 50 miles from Harwich. Disposal Area staff made 289 trips to this facility moving a total of 6,527 tons of MSW. The second component of the operation is the drop-off Recycling Center, located east of the Transfer Station. A total of 1,175 tons of recycled material was hauled to a facility in Mansfield and accounted for a total of 306 trips. The last major component of the operation is known as the C&D pad. C&D (construction and demolition, i.e. wood waste from building and remodeling, shingles, and unusable furniture) is dropped off on a concrete pad south of the Transfer Station, where it is processed to increase density and then loaded into 100-yard trailers for transportation to Win Waste Innovations, which is a facility in Taunton. Harwich vehicles made 517 trips, hauling a total of 7,925 tons of C&D.

The Town offers the following programs to residents:

- The Treasure Chest is open on Saturday and Sunday from 9AM-3PM.
- Automotive Product Recycling (daily, year round) for drop off of used oil, antifreeze, gasoline, and oil filters.
- Composting of Grass and Leaves (daily, year round). Material must be weighed, but there is no charge for residents.
- The Paint Shed operates from April 1-October 31. A total of 9,860 gallons were collected in 2025.
- Harwich hosts the Household Hazardous Products (HHP) collections for Harwich, Brewster and Chatham, in which unwanted household chemicals are collected. Collections are held on the second Saturday of each month from May through October, 9AM-12PM. During the 2025 HHP collections, the Disposal Area staff served 367 cars, recycling a total of 58,720 pounds of hazardous waste.
- The Disposal Area also collected 4,050 gallons of waste oil.
- Food Scrap Composting continues to be very popular, removing 35 tons of food scraps from the waste stream over the last year.

In addition to the above, we continue to accept the following items for a fee: brush, TVs, computers and monitors, propane tanks, tires, refrigerators, air conditioners, scrap metal, and appliances.

Highway Department

The Highway Department's primary responsibility is the maintenance, construction, and repair of 142 miles of public roadway. Staff consists of 8 full-time employees and 2 seasonal workers. Ongoing department programs include annual crack sealing, pavement resurfacing, pavement surface treatments and catch basin repair, replacement, and cleaning. In addition, this department is responsible for the snow and ice removal on 200 miles of public and private roadways, street sweeping, pothole patching, sign maintenance, pavement marking maintenance, and seaweed removal on Town-owned beaches. In addition to the previously mentioned activities, the Highway Department completed the following in 2025:

- Installed 17 drainage systems as well as another 33 drainage systems in conjunction with the ongoing sewer project
- Patched potholes and made road repairs at 42 sites, using 21 tons of asphalt
- Cleaned 683 catch basins with Town-owned equipment.
- Completed street sweeping the entire Town, including all Town buildings and municipal lots, by October 31, 2025
- Maintained all Town owned beaches from May through September
- Striped 32 miles of road
- Completed maintenance striping of all municipal parking lots and beach parking lots
- Completed Thermoplastic striping of 12 crosswalks on main roads in an effort to provide safer and more visible pedestrian crossings
- Brushed back 23 roads, including 10 main roads
- Completed roadside grass mowing on all main roads and started on secondary roads
- Responded to 628 work orders (requests for service)
- Maintained 11 gravel roads and 8 gravel parking lots
- Assisted the Conservation Department with maintaining Brooks Hollow, Thompsons Field, Cornelius Pond Woodlands, and Texeira Field utilizing a skid steer loader and brush mower for 12 days.

- Installed new and replaced old fencing as needed at several conservation areas and beaches
- Assisted the Cemetery Department with the walkway project in Evergreen Cemetery
- Reconfigured and expanded the conservation parking area on Bay Rd.
- Added new fencing around the Teixeira Conservation Area parking lot

Park and Cemetery Departments

These departments are responsible for the maintenance of 6 parks, 7 athletic fields, 19 memorial squares, the grounds of 14 Town-owned buildings, the Town Gardens, and the bicycle trail, the care, maintenance, preservation, and improvement of 17 Town-owned cemeteries.

The staffing of these two departments consists of four full-time and four seasonal employees.

Routine maintenance for the Park and Cemetery Departments was as follows:

- Parks, Grounds, and Memorial Squares – These were mowed regularly from mid-spring through mid-fall. Pruning, raking, cleanup, watering, and the painting and repairing of benches were done as staffing permitted, with assistance from the Cemetery and Highway Departments.
- Athletic Fields – These were mowed twice weekly and prepared for games daily from mid-spring through mid-fall. Raking, pruning, watering, cleanup, and repairs to fences, irrigation systems, and drainage systems were done as necessary.
- Maintained irrigation systems for all athletic fields and Town buildings. Repaired several major breaks in piping and replaced broken sprinkler heads as needed
- Bicycle Trail – This was patrolled on a weekly basis throughout the year for litter, washouts, debris, and other safety issues. The bike trail was mowed several times over the summer and was pruned, brushed, and blown off to remove sand and leaves as needed.
- Contracted with Tim Baker Tree Service for six days to remove roadside trees that were dead, dying, or otherwise in danger of falling.

- Cemeteries – Two full-time employees were dedicated to mowing and maintaining the Town's nearly 100 acres of cemeteries. When help was available from the Park and Highway Department, trimming, raking, and other routine maintenance was carried out.
- Cemeteries – Assisted with burial mark-outs and lot surveying

In addition to the routine maintenance listed above, the employees of these departments completed the following projects in 2025:

- Continued to improve the drainage on the Community Center fields and other athletic fields by drilling drainage holes with the assistance of the Highway and Cemetery Departments.
- Added stone dust to the warning track at Whitehouse Field and the infields at Memorial Field and Potters Field
- Removed dead trees around Whitehouse Field and cleared underbrush in the woods
- Top dressed and over seeded McPhee, Whitehouse, Potters, and Memorial Fields
- Over seeded the grass areas at many of the Town buildings
- Restored the athletic fields at the 204 Cultural Arts Municipal Building to playable condition
- Added 190 feet of fencing at Whitehouse Field
- Oversaw the installation of new stone tablet signs at several ancient cemeteries throughout town
- Maintained and repaired watering sites as needed in the larger cemeteries
- Coordinated with DPW to prepare the Evergreen Cemetery site for the installation of the "Walk of Remembrance" constructed by Lawrence Lynch Corp. Later relocated the "Veterans Memorial" boulder from Island Pond Cemetery to the end of the new walkway in Evergreen Cemetery.

The Park Department would like to extend a very sincere thanks to Shawn Fernandez and the Golf Department staff for their invaluable knowledge and assistance throughout the year. We would also like to thank Gerie Schumann for maintaining and filling the Mutt Mitt Dispensers, as well as the Bikeways Committee for their diligence in patrolling and helping to maintain the bike trail.

Beaches and Town Restrooms

Maintenance of the 20 Town-owned beaches was performed as a joint effort between the Highway, Park, and Building Maintenance Departments. The seaweed was removed weekly from Red River Beach, and periodically from Bank Street, Pleasant Road, and Earle Road Beaches. It was also removed from Belmont Road Beach as needed.

Partner Solutions was contracted to clean and stock Public restrooms twice a day during the summer.

Windswept sand was cleaned from the parking lots and beaches were patrolled for litter as staffing permitted.

Vehicle Maintenance Department

The Vehicle Maintenance Department, which consists of four full-time and two part-time employees, is responsible for scheduling, servicing, diagnosing, repairing, and parts ordering/receiving for the Town's entire fleet of vehicles and equipment, consisting of cars, trucks, loaders, sweepers, catch basin cleaner, tractors, trailers, police cruisers, fire engines, ambulances, mowers, plows, and sanders. This department also maintains the Town's fuel, diesel exhaust fluid dispensing systems and its small equipment, as well as registering, insuring, and handling accident claims for Town vehicles. This department is responsible for programming and staging of sign boards within the Town.

The following is a partial list of some of the repairs and maintenance accomplished in 2025:

- Performed Massachusetts State Inspections on 122 vehicles & equipment
- Performed 110 major and minor services to Town vehicles and equipment
- Performed 1,091 repairs to Town vehicles and equipment
- Performed a truck cab swap on the Harbormaster's crane truck to extend the life of the vehicle for another five years.
- Prepared Town vehicles for Department swaps. Decommissioned vehicles and equipment for trade-in.
- Prepared and maintained trucks and equipment for roadside mowing, beach cleaning and street sweeping
- Prepared Town trucks and equipment for snow and ice removal
- Performed snow and ice removal, storm cleanup

In Conclusion

I am happy to report that last fall the Select Board supported my request to establish a Deputy Director position within the DPW and that Sean Libby has been promoted to that post. Deputy Director Libby has worked as the Town's Facilities Manager since he was hired in 2013 and has flourished in that role, exceeding my expectations on a consistent basis. Sean is the most natural leader I have ever had the privilege of working with and has been the Department's de facto Deputy for many years, despite not having the title. I look forward to working with Sean in his new role and feel the Department will be in his very capable hands when I decide to retire.

I would like to thank the Select Board, Interim Town Administrator Tony Schiavi and his staff, and all the other Town departments for working cooperatively with the DPW throughout the year. I would also like to thank the residents of Harwich for their continued support of the Department of Public Works. Finally, I would like to thank the enthusiastic, conscientious and hardworking men and women of the Department of Public Works. It is truly a privilege to lead them and know that collectively we make Harwich a better Town to live and work in.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lincoln S. Hooper, Director

Report of the **Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee**

The Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee chose as our focus this year to help the town of Harwich to consider becoming a Climate Leader Community. This state designation is the next step after Green Communities. Harwich has been a Green Community since 2018 and has taken advantage of the grant opportunities to pay for upgrades to the HVAC equipment at the community center and the library. Harwich has received \$313,826 in grants from the Green Community fund.

The grant limit for a project funded through the Green Communities is \$250,000. The Climate Leader Program grant limit for a project is \$1 million. This committee has made several presentations to the select board about the Climate Leader program. The Energy and Climate Action committee will continue to provide information about this program to the town.

This committee has had a few challenges with membership. In 2025 Jacqueline Pentz-Greene and Glen Miemec resigned from the committee. Charlie Czech and Valerie Bell remain on the committee. The committee needs 3 members to have a quorum to meet. We are actively seeking new members. As soon as we have a quorum, we will plan our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Bell
Chair of the Harwich Energy and
Climate Action Committee

Report of the **The Garden Club of Harwich**

The club was founded in 1932 by twenty-five women committed to beautifying our community and providing a place to grow friendships. Today we are over 100 members strong supporting the town and each other as was started 93 years ago.

Harwich was the first town in Mass. to receive the National Wildlife Federation designation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. We continue to remain one of the few towns in the state to achieve this recognition. Many of our members participate in the Pollinator Pathway Project. Our commitment to the community is made possible by the dedication of our members, the town and overall community who support us in numerous ways throughout the year.

Annually we maintain 15 town gardens, highway exits and parks. The work to maintain these gardens requires members who plant, weed, water, deadhead and trim on a weekly basis. In addition, there are 53 planters throughout town we maintain during the spring, summer, fall and holiday seasons. Maintaining these gardens and planters requires in excess of 75 members working throughout the year.

We additionally provide and decorate holiday wreaths that adorn the electrical poles and public buildings. We appreciate and thank the DPW for the help that we receive in distributing these wreaths, delivering mulch, fence repair and any major brush and tree removal as needed. Thank you to the Fire Department for filling the water barrels for the garden at exit 82.

Through partnership with the DPW the Foodscrap Collection program is in place and has collected 55 tons of foodscrap. Now working with the elementary school to bring food scrap collection to the cafeteria, we hope to continue the momentum throughout the entire School District.

This is our second year of offering Bouquets of Love for Mother's Day Weekend, offering a small floral arrangement for children to create a gift for their special "MOM".

On a monthly basis 65 bouquets are created and distributed through Meals on Wheels and the Pine Oak Villages bringing joy to our seniors.

Through fundraising efforts, the club is able to support these programs as well as provide scholarship opportunities for students continuing education in a field related to landscape design or other related environmental studies. This year we provided one Monomoy High School graduate with a scholarship and two Toolship scholarships for Cape Cod Tech graduates. In addition, we offer the opportunity for Earth First Grants to teachers.

The Garden Club welcomes anyone interested in joining our team, please check out our web site at gardenclubofharwich.org

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Hoar
Garden Club President

Report of the

Historic District and Historical Commission

The Harwich Historic District and Historical Commission (the “Commission”) continues its most important role of preserving and protecting historically designated properties within the Town of Harwich through monthly hearings.

Currently, the Historic District and Historical Commission has 5 members:

5 regular members and 0 alternate members:

There are 2 regular member vacancies, and 5 associate member vacancies on The Commission.

Chairperson, Mary Maslowski, Robert Doane, Brendan Lowney, Lynne Zalesak, Paul Doane.

In 2025, the Commission heard a total of 34 applications:

- 5 Historic District Certificates:
 - 3 Certificates of Appropriateness applications granted
 - 2 Certificates of Non-Applicability applications granted
- 29 Notices of Intent for Demolition
 - 25 Applications granted
 - 4 Demolition Delays Imposed

As a notice to all residents, the Commission holds regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. We encourage all interested residents to attend.

Very truly yours,

Harwich Historic District and
Historical Commission
Secretary, Lisa Shaw

Report of the

Planning Department and Planning Board

I am pleased to submit this annual report of the Planning Department and Planning Board to the residents of the Town. The following report is a summary of the activities over the past year of 2025.

Planning Board Role & Responsibility:

The Planning Board's main charge is regulatory review of the division of land as well as the development and redevelopment of land in Harwich. The Board, through the Public Hearing Process evaluates applications through Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law, Massachusetts General Law, Site Plan Review and Special Permits to ensure compliance with the Town's Zoning Bylaws, the Planning Board's Rules and Regulations and the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to weekly Community Development Team meetings with regulatory departments and potential development applicants, staff works with other departments to review building permit applications for compliance within the purview of the planning department. We continue to work with and provide support to all other departments, boards and committees with respect to land use issues and needs. The Planning Department is committed to continuing to provide assistance and information to the Town's residents, general public, attorneys, realtors, prospective buyers and developers, as well as other local, regional, state or federal agencies.

2025 Regulatory Review:

In 2025, the Planning Department received 38 applications for various Special Permits including Site Plan Review, Multifamily and Two-Family Special Permits as well as several Covenant Releases and Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans. There were two cases from 2024 and six cases are pending in 2026. The following is a breakdown of cases for 2025:

- 8 Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans were received, one was withdrawn and seven ANR Plans were endorsed by the Planning Board.
- 3 Modification to Site Plan Review Special Permits were received, 2 modifications were approved with conditions, and one project is still pending review.

- 3 Fast Food/Take Out Restaurant Special Permits were reviewed and approved with conditions.
- 1 Manufacturing Special Permit was granted with conditions.
- 1 Special Permit for a Pool in the Six Ponds District was granted approval
- 5 New Site Plans Review Special Permit applications were reviewed; two projects approved with conditions, one project is under review with the Cape Cod Commission, two applications were withdrawn.
- 4 Site Plan Review Waiver Requests were received and all four waiver requests were granted.
- 2 Applications for Two-Family Special Permit were received: both projects were approved with conditions.
- 5 Application for Multi-Family Special Permits: 2 projects were approved with conditions, and three projects are still under review.
- 2 Applications for a Covenant Release

Comprehensive Permit Applications Chapter 40B:

In 2025, there were two substantial Comprehensive Permit Applications filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Department and Zoning Compliance Officer worked closely together to assist the ZBA's review of the following two Comprehensive Permit Projects:

- Pine Oaks Village IV (POVIV) project was for a 242 units Affordable and Attainable Housing. The POVIV Public Hearing process was longer than six months and the project was approved with conditions.
- Town of Harwich's 456 Queen Anne Road Pennrose Project, includes 60 units of Affordable and Attainable Housing. In December 2025, the project's Comprehensive Permit Application was filed with the ZBA.

Zoning Code Amendments:

In 2025, the Planning Board received three significantly large projects not typical in the Town of Harwich. These three projects brought active participation and spirited debate largely around community character, traffic, and natural resources protection and whether the current zoning regulations accurately reflect those values. These issues were also discussed and debated during the Local Comprehensive Planning process. One priority action is to create a working group to review the Town's Zoning regulations and best practices in the hopes to better balance competing land

uses and addressing community needs while effectively regulating growth and development.

The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have directed the Town Planner to establish a Zoning Work Group. There are several areas of interest for the Zoning Work Group to dig in. Other draft zoning amendments for 2026 Annual Town Meeting include amending the local Accessory Dwelling Unit By-law, Multifamily By-law, and several Zoning Definition updates.

Planning Projects:

In 2025, the Local Planning Committee (LPC) spent a great deal of time actively engaging the public and members of town boards/committees, to help prepare a Final Draft Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) this past summer. During the Fall, the committee hosted two well attended public presentations of the Final Draft LCP. There was a sixty-day public comment period and the Town has a Final Draft LCP ready for the Planning Board's Public Hearing Process and approval with a recommendation to voters to adopt the Local Comprehensive Plan at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. It has been a very exciting planning process and the Local Planning Committee members deserve a great deal of appreciation and support for their creative energy, insights, knowledge, collaboration, and overall commitment to our community and the Town of Harwich.

As part of the Local Comprehensive Planning process, the town completed the following three planning documents:

1. In April, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) approved the 2025 Housing Production Plan (HPP).
2. In July 2025, the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) granted the Town conditional approval for the 2025 – 2035 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).
3. In 2024 and 2025, the Town secured state funding from MEMA to engage the Cape Cod Commission to update the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). In November and December, there was a Public Presentation as well as a Public Comment Period. A Final Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was submitted to MEMA for review. The Planning Department wishes to thank Martha Hevenor, Planner II, Cape Cod Commission and the HMP Planning Team.

FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program:

The town completed FEMA's Annual Community Rating System (CRS) for the town to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The Town is also under FEMA's 5 Year Review which is a very lengthy and detail process for Town Hall Staff. The Planning Department would like to thank staff with the Conservation Commission, Zoning Compliance Officer, Building Department and especially Shannon Hulst, Barnstable County's Floodplain Specialist.

Membership & Staff

In 2025, the Planning Board welcomed Ms. Annie Newman as the newest member to the Planning Board. Annie has had a career in planning both public and private work. She brings a great deal of insight to the Board. Currently the Board has two openings for alternate members. We encourage any interested members of the public to apply for these positions.

Other staff changes, the Board welcomed Ms. Meg Salmon who is now the Assistant Conservation Agent and we wish her all the best. In December, the Board welcomed Matt Hamilton as the new Planning Assistant. Matt has worked with the Harwich Channel 18 for the last several years and we are very excited to have Matt join the Community & Development Team.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Flynn,
Director, Planning & Community Development

The Harwich Planning Board members are as follows:

Duncan Berry – Chair
Emily Brutti – Member
Mary Maslowski – Member
Harry Munns – Member
Annie Newman, Member
Allan Peterson – Member
Ann Clark Tucker – Member

Report of the **Pleasant Bay Alliance**

The Pleasant Bay Alliance is an organization of the Towns of Orleans, Chatham, Brewster and Harwich charged with implementing the Resource Management Plan for the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern and watershed. The Alliance develops public policy recommendations, technical studies and public informational materials, all available at www.pleasantbay.org. Highlights from 2025 are described below.

The Alliance continued to facilitate discussions with the MA Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) regarding revisions to the Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit. The revised permit demonstrates substantial progress made by the Pleasant Bay towns toward meeting the nitrogen load reductions identified in the 2018 Watershed Permit. As of 2024, the cumulative load removal of 5,467 kilograms per year (kg/yr) exceeds the Year 5 target of 4,914 kg/yr by 11% and represents 51% of the ten-year goal of 10,801 kg/yr for the 2018 Watershed Permit. By year 20 of the revised permit term, the combined four-town removals are expected to be 98% of the required nitrogen reduction, well beyond the minimum of 75% required to demonstrate of substantial progress required under MassDEP regulations.

The Alliance continued working with partners to implement priority recommendations of the *Pleasant Bay Climate Adaptation Action Plan*. The Climate Adaptation Action Plan provides a foundation for regional coordination to increase the resilience of Pleasant Bay, and will be updated as progress is achieved and more is learned about climate change and its impacts on Pleasant Bay resources. The Alliance is working with the Town of Chatham, Cape Cod Commission and County Cooperative Extension Service to advance the adaptation and adoption of coastal resilience regulatory tools developed by the Cape Cod Commission. This work is supported by a technical assistance grant from the US EPA Southeast New England Program. The regulatory tools are designed to promote public safety and reduce property damage in the coastal flood plain. The Alliance is also working with Friends of Pleasant Bay and the Cape Cod National Seashore to advance salt marsh conservation and restoration.

For the 26th consecutive summer, dedicated volunteers collected water quality samples at 25 bay-wide locations. The data collected document water quality impairment in Pleasant Bay and are used in the design and implementation of wastewater management plans.

The Alliance wishes to thank Allin Thompson, who retired from the Steering Committee in 2025, for his many years of service, and the citizens of Harwich for your ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dorothy Howell, Steering Committee
Carole Ridley, Coordinator

Report of the

Real Estate and Open Space Committee

The purpose and mission of the Harwich Real Estate and Open Space (REOS) Committee is to study and make recommendations to Harwich elected officials and voters regarding the protection, acquisition, use and management of land for public purposes.

There are many reasons for the Town of Harwich to acquire, dispose of, conservation restrict, maintain and manage public lands, such as open space, recreation, habitat protection, affordable housing, historic preservation and general municipal uses.

In 2025 the Real Estate and Open Space Committee worked with an ad hoc group of experienced land acquisition individuals and the Harwich Conservation Trust to evaluate town owned properties held for general municipal use. These parcels are noted in the Assessor's records as being under the control of the Select Board and can be sold or built upon for any purpose.

This year's focus was identifying those parcels that are adjacent to, or very near, existing lands protected against development by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, primarily for conservation or water protection. REOS made a presentation to the Water and Wastewater Commissioners, the Conservation Commission and the Select Board, all of whom supported the transfer of the care and custody of those parcels to either the Harwich Conservation Commission or the Harwich Water/Wastewater Commission.

An article is being drafted for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

The Committee also evaluated and submitted a letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee for the acquisition of a Conservation Restriction on 17.8 acres northwest of Robbins Pond that the Harwich Conservation Trust is acquiring.

REOS has continued to work with Town Administration to hire professional deed researchers for the Owners Unknown project funded in Article 39 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. For over a decade the Committee has continually prioritized a few large untaxed parcels for potential acquisition by the Town for water protection.

We continue to have productive relationships with the Harwich Water/Wastewater Department, Harwich Affordable Housing Trust, Town Conservation Department and the Harwich Conservation Trust.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dave Callaghan, Chair
Katherine Green, Vice Chair
Carol Porter, Clerk
Margo Fenn
Brad Hinote
Elaine Shovlin
Marcie Smith

Report of the **Treasure Chest Committee**

The Treasure Chest is an advisory committee to the Harwich Select Board, focused on diverting usable clothing and household items from the waste stream to the public. Located on Queen Anne Road adjacent to the Harwich Transfer Station, the facility serves as a hub for the community's "reduce, reuse, and recycle" efforts.

The Treasure Chest is open year-round on weekends for Harwich residents, though it may close occasionally due to inclement weather. Our current hours are:

- **April through December:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **January through March:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The committee is currently composed of five full-time members. Leadership roles are shared, with members rotating the Chair position every three months and a Clerk serving a one-year term. We appreciate the guidance of Jeff Handler, our liaison to the Select Board.

Our operations rely heavily on a dedicated team of 24 staff volunteers and six substitutes who cover morning and afternoon shifts. These volunteers work both during public hours and throughout the week to reorganize, clean, and prepare the facility for the weekend. Their duties include:

- Accepting and sorting donations
- Monitoring the gate to ensure all vehicles display the required resident stickers

The Treasure Chest plays a vital role in recycling items to keep them out of the waste stream. We manage a constant flow of goods in accordance with Massachusetts laws regarding the recycling of textiles, magazines, cardboard, metal, and glass. Inventory is organized across several structures:

- **Two sheds:** Dedicated to securing small furniture items.
- **Large shed:** Houses clothing, books, records, toys, small appliances, garden tools, pet equipment, bicycles, and gently used household items.

Beyond serving residents directly, we distribute excess items to non-profit agencies, such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. We also welcome requests from other non-profit groups in need of specific items.

This operation would not be possible without the continued support of the Select Board, the DPW, our wonderful volunteers, and the Harwich community

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moody
Treasure Chest Committee

SCHOOLS

Report of the

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District



Cape Cod Regional Technical High School was established in 1973 as a public technical high school, with our first graduating class in 1975. Cape Cod Tech students meet the same academic standards required by the State as our sending schools while also meeting certification standards of their technical training.

District Towns: Barnstable, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Yarmouth

Mission Statement: *Educating hands and minds*

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School developed the new mission statement during our latest strategic planning process.

Enrollment: For school year 2024-2025, the enrollment on October 1, 2024 was **682** students.

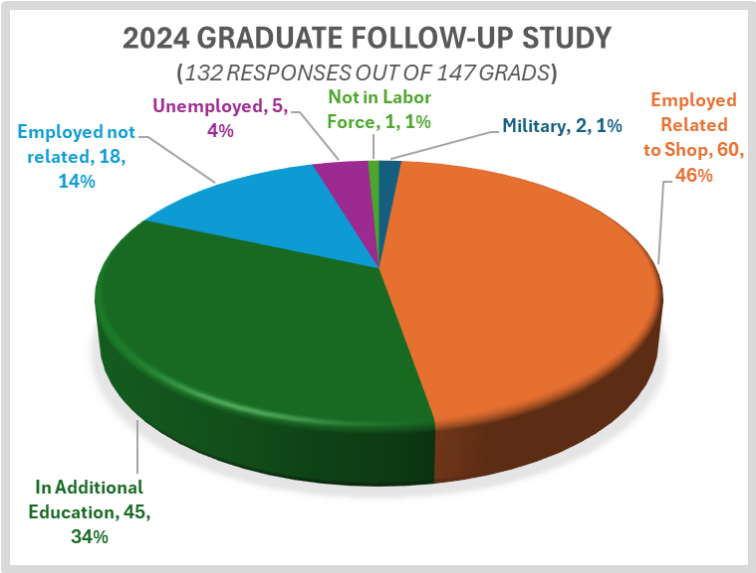
Budget: For school year 2024-25 (FY25) the Total Operating Budget was **\$17,484,000**, a **4.38%** increase over FY24. To view: <https://www.capetech.us/about/departments/business-office>

News from Superintendent Sanborn:

During the 2024-2025 school year, Cape Cod Tech completed its fiftieth year of providing Vocational Technical education for students from Provincetown to Mashpee. In December 2024, the district was notified of our new ten year NEASC accreditation. The work by our entire staff, working in teams, made the accreditation process possible and successful.

Academically, our 10th-grade students demonstrated commendable performance across all MCAS subjects. In English Language Arts, 57% of students met or exceeded expectations, surpassing the state average of 51%. In Mathematics, 52% achieved this level, compared to the state’s 45%. In Science, 58% of students met or exceeded expectations, exceeding the state average of 46%. These results were on par or better than all Cape & Islands sending district high schools due to the hard work of our students and their teachers.

Technically, the training our students receive from our highly skilled technical instructors is recognized and sought after by our employer partners. Over one hundred and fifty-six (156) juniors and seniors worked during their shop time in our successful Cooperative Education program. In our most recent 2024 graduate follow-up study, nearly ninety percent of our graduates responded and the results below show excellent outcomes:



Cape Cod Tech is planning for future programming with the hope of grant funding. As shared last year, Cape Cod Tech is now the steward of thirty-three acres at 374 Main Street through an intermunicipal lease agreement with the town of Harwich. This site will serve as a field site and outdoor classroom if we are able to build a facility on our existing campus in the new year which will serve as the future home for our Environmental Technology and Veterinary Science programs. Finally, we continue to view our facility not only as a school but as a community resource providing services to towns and community members, offering afternoon and evening workforce training (see our adult education website <https://www.communityschoolcct.org>) and hosting events for towns and non-profit organizations. Cape Cod Tech truly appreciates our twelve sending towns for their ongoing support of our district.

Town of Harwich: Harwich had 72 students enrolled at Cape Cod Tech as of October 1, 2024.

The assessment for Harwich in FY25 was \$1,546,671 based on the previous year's October 1, 2023 enrollment of 76 students.

Highlights from Cape Cod Tech 2024-25 School Year

- All of the 158 seniors graduated: 22 from Harwich.
- Enrolled 186 freshman: 17 from Harwich.
- Awards Night for the graduating Class of 2025 presented 213 scholarships, toolships and awards, totaling \$302,142 through the generosity of Cape Cod community organizations, charities, family memorials, and the Cape Cod Tech Foundation.
- Forty-four (44) students received John and Abigail Adams Scholarships, 9 from Harwich.
- The National Technical Honors Society (NTHS) had 82 members this year 8 from Harwich. They fundraised to support two charities: Adopt-a-Family and Meals on Wheels with \$1500 raised,
- SkillsUSA, a national student organization, is a huge part of the Cape Cod Tech experience, combining technical, academic and employability skills. The Cape Tech SkillsUSA chapter earned a Models of Excellence Recognition for the 6th consecutive year and Chapter of Excellence, Gold Chapter award for the 8th year. At District and State competitions a total of 38 medals were earned along with 1 State Officer Elect and 2 National Voting Delegates. Leadership training events were numerous and community service initiatives continuous.

- Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a national career and technical student organization of middle and high school classes that promote and support agricultural education. In 2025, forty-six (46) students were enrolled in our Horticulture program, all of whom are enrolled in FFA. In the annual state competitions, they placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in multiple areas of competition, such as science, turf, and nursery landscape..
- The Cooperative Education (Co-Op) program works with local industries to hire 11th and 12th grade students during the 2-week vocational cycle, thus enhancing their training, skills and employability after high school. Students meet attendance and grade criteria to be eligible, and continue attending their academic courses. This year 97 seniors and 59 juniors participated.
- Athletics expanded again this year with our new athletic fields. Sports offered: football, volleyball, girls and boys soccer, cross-country, golf, ice hockey, boys and girls basketball, cheerleading, baseball, softball, girls and boys lacrosse, track& field, spring track and tennis.

Technical Highlights from 2024-2025

- The Auto Collision program completed over 115 jobs for the general public, a value of \$50,000. All 10th, 11th and 12th graders are OSHA certified. Ninth grade seats were filled to capacity. Fifty percent (50%) of both upper grades participated in Co-Op placements. High achievers included 1 student earning a gold medal in state competitions and another student completing the MA Auto Damage Appraisers Course.
- The Auto Technology program has already made improvements to their electric vehicle curriculum implemented last year. Eleven students participated in Co-Op job placements, earning a range of \$15 - \$22 per hour. The Auto Tech Club was able to provide tools for students who participated but had financial needs.
- The Carpentry Department students have been mastering math skills such as estimation of materials, calculations of areas, layout of rafters. Community projects included construction of a handicap ramp, raised garden beds, Adirondack chairs and kayak racks. Fifteen students participated in Co-Op jobs, and all 10th, 11th and 12th graders are OSHA certified.
- The Cosmetology programs had an impressive list of accomplishments: 8 seniors passed the State Board Exam and 4 juniors have registered; 5 students participated in SkillsUSA bringing

home 3 silver medals; 12 new freshman joined the shop including 3 males; and 4 students participated in the apprentice program.

- Culinary Arts had three new teachers with extensive restaurant experience. The highlight of the year was partnering with the Family Table Collaborative with students volunteering every week and contributing in every capacity. They have competed successfully in competitions, passed OSHA certifications, and contributed to the shop passing Board of Health inspections.
- Dental Assisting began an internship program for juniors who rotated between internships and clinic time. Students' clinic time was with Ellen Jones Dental, Mashpee Community Health, volunteering at VNA health fairs and senior centers. For the past eight years, CCT students have surpassed state averages on the dental assisting national board exams.
- The Design & Visual Communications (DVC) Shop had more students interested in their shop than there were seats. Students contributed to the school by installing artwork around the building. With a laser engraver, garment printer, film and a new machine that prints directly onto walls, there was a lot more to the curriculum than working only on computers.
- The Electrical Shop focused on strengthening their curriculum and relationships with community contractors, and completing more community jobs than the previous year. The 4th Annual Grade 10 Electrical Competition was held with sponsors from the community to showcase their students' skills. Twenty-three students participated in Co-Op job placements.
- Engineering Technology students learned to use computer-integrated manufacturing routers and mills, and 3D printers. They competed in Automated Manufacturing and in Mechatronics at SkillsUSA. Two robotics teams qualified for state competitions in Cape Cod leagues. This year their seniors included the Class Valedictorian, President and Treasurer.
- Health Technologies students were very active: 100% of juniors obtained their Certified Nursing Assistants license; 20 sophomores obtained Basic Life Support and First Aid certifications; 10 seniors worked at Cape Cod Hospital in Co-Op jobs and four worked in other placements. Health Clinics were more successful than ever with great community feedback.

- The Horticulture program used the school grounds as a training opportunity for students to practice their skills. Two community service projects stand out: building a memorial stonewall for a family with donated materials from Robert B. Our; and yard clean-up for several appreciative families battling medical issues also using donated materials.
- The HVAC Department's advisory board was expanded to include more local HVAC contractors, which enhanced the program's curriculum and gave students greater exposure to industry expectations. Guest speakers and career talks further connected students to the real-world applications of their learning. Sixteen students participated in Co-Op placements.
- The Information Technology Program purchased CompTIA exam vouchers, a well-known standard in this industry, which offers grade equivalent exams. Eleventh graders provided a community service of in-person tech support to local residents held at the Eastham Public Library that was very popular. This service will be expanded next year.
- The Marine Services Program had outstanding accomplishments. They received multiple boat and engine donations from local marinas for student learning, and received a \$7,000 grant from Mercury to purchase training materials. Four 2025 graduates will be attending Maine Maritime Academy, seven secured full-time employment in the local marine industry; all 14 freshman completed 'Boating Safety License' certificates and 25 students participated in Co-Op.
- The Plumbing Shop focused first on the 9th grade Exploratory to attract students interest to the field. Next, they turned their attention to building 12 individual work stations for sophomores. Their primary ongoing goal is to emphasize Co-Op placements as a bridge to post graduate employment. The highlight of the year was plumbing the Wellfleet Historical Society Museum.

Academic Highlights from 2024-2025

- Business Education/21st Century Learning teaches three strands of technical education to 9th and 10th graders. The program partnered with the Co-Op Education program to host a job fair with a record number of employers, and hosted the 12th Annual Credit For Life Fair sponsored by Cape Cod5. Also, a \$3,000 economic development grant was awarded for training materials.

- The Art Department created a mural for The Hope Project for the third year. This year a pottery club was initiated. The Art Instructor is a member of the Cape and Islands Art Educators which provides opportunities to collaborate and to show our students work.
- The English Department students continued to win numerous writing awards in local, state and national publications. MCAS scores were above state averages in English Language Arts (ELA). The department's literacy program reaches into every academy and technical shop, raising communication skills school wide and impacting department curriculums.
- The Social Studies Department has focused intentionally on government and civics, teaching historical thinking skills and using primary reference sources. The AP Government class size has grown and AP exam scores are keeping pace with national averages, despite having half the class time as students alternate with shop cycles.
- The Math Department completed its second year of the new 'Reveal Curriculum' into Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2. Two new teachers joined the department this year. The Math Department recognizes the importance of fostering a positive learning environment and likes to have their students working in pairs or groups.
- The Science Department focused on building trust with their students through fairness and caring. Animal Behavior was offered as a selection for upper-class students this year. All science teachers offer support sessions two days/week after school. MCAS results for science were higher on average than the state average and were the 3rd highest out of the 10 Cape Cod High Schools.
- The Special Education Department supports students in a multitude of ways and is involved in seemingly every activity in the school. They are a team of teachers, which teach all core subjects, and paraprofessionals who provide support to students in both academic and shop classes. The department emphasizes the role of parents and families in student success.
- The Student Services Department is comprised of four counselors, an Adjustment Coordinator and Admissions Coordinator. Their Student Ambassadors program recruits students to provide leadership at school functions, new student orientation, and tours of the school for visiting students and groups. This year 90 students participated, providing an essential role to the school.

Please visit our website: www.capetech.us for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Furtado, Vice-Chair and John Our,
School Committee Representatives for Harwich

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District School Committee

Report of the **Monomoy Regional School District**

Monomoy Regional School District is a community of learners of all ages focused on building knowledge, positive character, and resiliency in a safe, supportive, creative, and challenging environment. The following report summarizes many of the happenings in our community schools during the 2025 calendar year.



Our important work continues

Throughout 2025, Monomoy Regional School District continued robust implementation of its Strategic Plan and its Portrait of a Graduate, keeping students at the center of all decision-making. The three pillars of Monomoy's Strategic Plan – Portrait of a Graduate Implementation, Learning and Academics, and Being and Wellness – focus on ensuring that every graduate possesses the skills, attributes, and characteristics necessary for success in college, career, and life, within a rigorous, equitable, and inclusive academic environment that promotes the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of students and staff. Together, these guiding principles center our resources and attention on the areas that our community has identified as priorities.

This calendar year marks the last full year for longtime Superintendent Dr. Scott Carpenter, who will retire from Monomoy in June 2026. During the latter half of 2025, the Monomoy Regional School Committee undertook a rigorous and extensive Superintendent Search, with support from a screening committee composed of administrators, educators, parents and caregivers, and a high school student. After the candidates participated in multiple interviews, visits to the district, and meetings with students, staff, families, and the community, the School Committee reviewed all information and voted to appoint Dr. Robin Millen as the district's next Superintendent. Dr. Millen has been Monomoy's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment since 2023, and began her career with the district in 2014 as Assistant Principal of Harwich Elementary School for one year and then Principal of Chatham Elementary School for six years.

Fast Facts

- Number of Schools: 4 (Chatham Elementary School, Harwich Elementary School, Monomoy Regional Middle School, Monomoy Regional High School)
- Student Enrollment (2025-2026): 1,728
- Grades Served: PK - 12
- Team Members: 364 support, professional, and administrative staff
- Student Demographics: American Indian or Alaska Native 0.6%; Asian 1.8%; Black or African American 8.0%; Hispanic or Latino 10.6%; Multi-Race, Not Hispanic or Latino 6.9%; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0.2%; White 71.9%

Academic Excellence, Honors, and Awards

The 2025 calendar year brought many exciting honors and awards for Monomoy students and faculty.

Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence

In February 2025, Superintendent Dr. Scott Carpenter presented a Monomoy Regional High School senior with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence. This award is given to the high school senior who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career. In selecting the award winner each year, Dr. Carpenter looks for not only academic success within the classroom, but for demonstrations of leadership and initiative within the school and the greater community. Monomoy counselors and administrators help with this selection, and for 2025, the team selected Lucy Bates to receive the Award for Academic Excellence. Lucy was the valedictorian of the MRHS Class of 2025 and is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

MRHS Department Awards and Junior Book Awards

In May 2025, Monomoy Regional High School honored students in the Class of 2026 with Department Awards and Junior Book Awards

Each department at MRHS recognized Grade 11 students who have made an impression by going above and beyond in the classroom. Science and Technology – Excellence in Biology: Arden Gingras; Excellence in Chemistry: Jillian Ditrich; Excellence in Physics: Thomas Chase; Excellence in Computer Technology: Ciara McAllister; Excellence in Engineering: Solomon Antar. World Language – Excellence in Latin: Arden Gingras; Excellence in French: Ben Ottino; Excellence in Spanish: Luke Raftery and

Noemi Lemaire; Excellence in Mandarin: Ella Baum and Kyra Howard; Wellness – Abrielle Long; Culinary – Emily Saliba and Luke Routhier; Social Studies – Excellence in History: Emory Hines; Excellence in History: Maggie Powers; Math – Thomas Chase; English – Critical Thinking: Arden Gingras; Perseverance: Faye Viprino; Passion: Kyra Howard; Communication: Emory Hines; Challenge: Jude Hutchings-McMahon; Visual and Performing Arts – Digital Media: Luke Routhier and Sebastian Sarabia; Excellence in Visual Arts: Olliver Tadema-Weilandt; Excellence in Instrumental Music: Jillian Stevenson and Charlotte Skinner; Excellence in Photography/Design: Ethan Seufert; Excellence in Choral Music: Emory Hines and Payton MacRoberts; Excellence in Theatre Performance: Emory Hines, Faye Viprino, Payton MacRoberts, and Tim Gray; Excellence in 3-Dimensional Art: Kyra Howard; Excellence in Ceramics: Sarah Groves; Excellence in Performing Arts Technology: Timothy Gray.

The Junior Book Awards are given to students who are in the top of their class with respect to their academic standings and GPA. Many colleges and universities across the United States partner with high schools to award College Book Awards to exceptional high school students. Each award recognizes a certain area of excellence and achievement, such as talent in music or the arts, academic success, political advocacy, or service in the community: Thomas Chase – Harvard University; Tyler Fleischmann – MIT STEM award; Arden Gingras – Yale University; Natalie Sims – Dartmouth College; Emory Hines – Brown University; Abrielle Long – Tufts University; Jillian Dittrich – Notre Dame University; Megan Gabri – Smith College; Lauren Gabri – St. Michael's College; Patrick Jordan – St. Michael's College; Payton MacRoberts – UMass Amherst; Joseph Ventura – Worcester Polytechnic Institute; McKenna Carchedi – Bowdoin College; Abigail Meyer – Endicott College; Margaret Powers – Suffolk University; Mackenzie Bowers – Sacred Heart University; Thomas Chase – Rensselaer Medalist.

Teacher and School Awards

Monomoy Regional High School was honored with the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board 2025 Partner in Education Award. This award was given for outstanding support and participation in CIWB's programming to provide education and awareness of the many employment opportunities on Cape Cod, and Monomoy's commitment to preparing our students for college, career, and life. Accepting the award were Monomoy Superintendent Scott Carpenter and MRHS Career Education Coordinator Cheri Armstrong.

Celebration of Excellence

On November 6, 2025, Monomoy Regional High School held its annual fall Celebration of Excellence, honoring students for a variety of academic achievements, including excellence in engineering, Latin awards, Adams Scholarships, AP Scholar awards, and more. Honorees included current MRHS students as well as members of the Class of 2025.

Two students achieved a perfect MCAS score in the Grade 10 ELA test taken in the spring of 2025: Bobbie Braz and Emma Eldredge.

Students who have demonstrated excellence in a variety of Monomoy's Project Lead the Way engineering courses were recognized. Project Lead the Way, better known as PLTW, is a research-supported approach that empowers students to discover and explore interests, imagine and design solutions to real-world challenges, and become independent, confident problem solvers. Courses included in this recognition are Introduction to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Aerospace Engineering, Cybersecurity, and Computer Science Essentials. At the end of each course, students take an exam and can score in the following categories: Novice, Practiced, Accomplished and Distinguished. The following MRHS students were honored for their PLTW results. For courses in Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering, the following students received the score of Practiced or Accomplished in their PLTW end-of-year exams: Harrison Beaumont, Thomas Chase, Jackson Craig, Davion Dawkins, Kyra Howard, Ava Loracco, Axel Morales, Daniel Morgan, Quinn Muldoon, Tyler (Kade) Stephens. For Aerospace Engineering: Solomon Antar - Accomplished. For Cybersecurity: Cedric Cavanaugh - Practiced, Alexa Ford - Practiced, Ciara McAllister - Accomplished. For Computer Integrated Manufacturing, the following students scored as Accomplished: Solomon Antar, Amalia Decastro, Patrick Jordan, Sawyer Nicholson, Joseph Ventura. Achieving a Distinguished score for CIM was Thomas Chase. The following students received Accomplished for their work in Computer Science Essentials: Colton Davidson, Tanner Grodzicki, Isabella Hardy, Sophia Hennessey, Jude Hutchings-McMahon, Andrew Lagreze, Molly Langway, Kinsey Lister, Benjamin Mills, Ava Pina, Emily Saliba, Willow Staniels, Edgar Tavares-Silva. Achieving Distinguished for Computer Science Essentials were Davion Dawkins and Sean Garland.

In spring of 2025, Monomoy hosted the National Latin Exam for the first time in the school's history. This is a 40-question, leveled, multiple-choice exam that Latin students across the country take. Once a collective average is calculated, students who score above average are recognized. These students all challenged themselves by taking this optional exam: Remi Schreiner, Gold Medal: Summa Cum Laude; Sofia Duguay, Silver

Medal: Maxima Cum Laude; Lizzie Cronen, Silver Medal: Maxima Cum Laude; Corinne Pina, Magna Cum Laude; Emma Eldredge, Magna Cum Laude; Welly Holmes, Magna Cum Laude; Marek Punty, Magna Cum Laude; Andrew Lagreze, Cum Laude; Callie Meader, Cum Laude; Tyler Fleishmann, Cum Laude.

A number of MRHS seniors were named as recipients of The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. The Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides a credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, recognition is based on student scores on the 10th grade MCAS exam. The Monomoy Regional High School Adams Scholarship Award Winners are: Solomon Antar, Tyler Ayer, Ella Baum, Meryn Boutin, Mackenzie Bowers, Rubi Cabrera, McKenna Carchedi, Thomas Chase, Rea Christakis, Felipe De Souza, Amalia Decastro, Jillian Dittrich, Tyler Fleischmann, Megan Gabri, Lauren Gabri, Chatham Gillis, Arden Gingras, Sarah Groves, Emory Hines, Ogniana Ivanova, Patrick Jordan, Payton MacRoberts, Carly Mainini, Ciara McAllister, Patrick McMahon, Abigail Meyer, Lucas Mirisola, Sawyer Nicholson, Sophia Pandiscio, Xevi Pina Parker, Ethan Seufert, Dominic Silvester, Natalie Sims, Jillian Stevenson, Joseph Ventura.

The College Board National Recognition Program awards academic honors to high-performing students to help them stand out to colleges and celebrate their hard work. Students of all backgrounds from schools nationwide are eligible to claim an award based on their achievements on the PSAT/NMSQT or AP Exams. The following students have been recognized by the College Board with their School Recognition Award: Tyler Ayer, Bobbi Braz, Thomas Chase, Rea Christakis, Lizzie Cronen, Emma Eldredge, Autumn Escher, Tyler Fleischmann, Chatham Gillis, Caroline Hadden, Emory Hines, Abigail Meyer, Sawyer Nicholson, Natalie Sims.

There are levels of AP Scholar designation, depending on the number of AP courses taken and the scores earned: AP Scholar – students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams; AP Scholar with Honor – students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams; and AP Scholar with Distinction – students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. The following students have been recognized as AP Scholars: Tyler Ayer, Meryn Boutin, McKenna Carchedi, Felipe DeSouza, Jillian Dittrich, Olivia Eldredge, Alexa Ford, Arden Gingras, Lily Gray, Patrick McMahon, Abigail Meyer, Dominic Silvester, Leila Spencer, Faye Viprino, Madison Whitcomb.

The students receiving AP Scholar with Honor recognition are: Ella Baum, Tessa Grodzicki, Caroline Hadden, Patrick Jordan, Livia LeBlanc, Lucas Mirasola, Sofia Pandiscio, Jillian Stevenson. The students receiving AP Scholar with Distinction recognition are: Mackenzie Bowers, Thomas Chase, Rea Christakis, Tyler Fleischmann, Chatham Gillis, Emory Hines, Abrielle Long, Payton MacRoberts, Ciara McAllister, Sawyer Nicholson, Margaret Powers, Natalie Sims, Joseph Ventura.

A number of students from the MRHS Class of 2025 were also recognized as AP Scholars. The graduates receiving AP Scholar recognition include: Ashley Anderson, Isabella Bellefeuille, Anna Borzilleri, Emily Brophy, Bobbi Brown, Jacob Celani, Dillon Chapman, Sophia Cohrs, Jericah Dujua, Maya Flaherty, Jack Heffernan, Tamer Khalil, Ryan Laramée, Charlotte Mahoney, Thomas Marchio, Sophia Milan, Scarlett O'Malley, Juliana Ritchie, Chase Robbins, Emily Silvester, Adelaide Thonus, Zach Vagenas, Niko Vujosevic, Jacob Woodland, Chase Yarleets. The graduates receiving AP Scholar with Honor recognition include: Justin Barr, Finn Hyora, Maya Jones, Emily Layton, Ella Robinson. The graduates receiving AP Scholar with Distinction include: Lucy Bates, Kassandra Cruz, Jason Elhilow, Cameron McCutcheon, Aubrieta Schneeberger, Hillevi Segerson, Chloe Thompson, Caroline Vitolo.

Tyler Fleischmann was named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in 2026 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards (only the top 16,000 continue on), Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2026 competition by taking the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT.

Convocation

Monomoy Regional High School held its Senior Convocation Academic Awards and Scholarship Evening on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Students, families, faculty, and community members gathered to celebrate the hard work and achievement of the MRHS Class of 2025, and many local organizations were in attendance to present the scholarship awards. Guests also enjoyed performances by the MRHS Jazz Band, led by Wayne Naus, and the MRHS Select Choir, led by Rosemarie Richard. The Brooks Medal, a historic award in our community, established in 1887 and awarded to the student who "is most proficient in composition and letter-writing," was bestowed on MRHS Senior Jason Elhilow. The Service Award was presented to Lincoln Barry, who was entering the U.S. Air Force. MRHS Principal Jennifer Police presented the Principal's Pride Award to Cole Strzepak. Athletic Director Karen Guillemette presented Scholar Athlete of the Year

awards to Fiona Moore and Casey Huse. Lucy Bates was recognized as Valedictorian and Emily Layton was recognized as Salutatorian. More than 80 Monomoy Regional High School students received scholarship awards at Convocation, with more than half a million dollars handed out to the Class of 2025. Thanks to the generous donors, the Monomoy Class of 2025 received \$549,956 in local scholarships.

Graduation

Monomoy Regional High School held a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 on June 7, 2025. The 152 graduates were welcomed by Principal Jennifer Police and Class President Paige Nash. Superintendent Dr. Scott Carpenter's address focused on the rise of artificial intelligence and the need to retain human effort and connections. School Committee Vice Chair Brad Schiff and Valedictorian Lucy Bates also gave inspirational remarks. The 2025 Reflection Awards were presented to educators from each school that students selected for their impact on their development. Fiona Moore presented the CES award to Barbara McGuire, Chase Yarleets presented the HES award to Joseph Zabielski, Aubrieta Schneeberger presented the MRMS award to Leslie Botsford, and Maya Jones presented the MRHS award to Eileen Harrington. Remarks from Salutatorian Emily Layton, a Student Address by Tamer Khalil, and Class President Paige Nash's speech followed. MRHS teacher John Dickson presented Global Studies diplomas to Sophia Cohrs, Jericah Dujua, Maya Flaherty, and Hillevi Segerson. Ad Lucem ("toward the light") is the underlying principle that guides our district and all our students. This is represented in the annual high school graduation award presented at graduation. These awards are given to those who selflessly contribute to the school's culture. The 2025 Ad Lucem Award winners were: Support Staff – Mary Drake, Faculty – John Anderson, Students – Jason Elhilow and Fiona Moore, Parent – Kimberly Robbins, Community Member – Charles Gruszka. Throughout the ceremony, there were special musical performances by the MRHS Select Choir.

Monomoy Regional High School Performing Arts

January 2025 opened with the Annual Alumni Concert followed almost immediately by the beginning of rehearsals for the spring musical production of *Mamma Mia!*, which included the yearly visit from guest artist/Broadway actor Robi Hager. At the Senior Southeastern District Music Festival, 9 students represented Monomoy Regional High School in three ensembles. Of those given the recommendation to audition for the Massachusetts All State Music Festival, Emory Hines '26 and Wellington Holmes '27 were successful in their auditions.

In February, 24 Monomoy Regional High School music students represented the district in the All-Cape and Islands Music Festival in all four ensembles. At the end of the month, MRHS' Jazz Band, composed fully of student volunteers and directed by retired Berklee College of Music Professor Wayne Naus (also a volunteer), took home silver in the Massachusetts Association for Jazz Education Cape Cod/Coastal Jazz Festival. Pianist Christopher Marchio '27 was selected as the Division 2 most valuable player for the competition.

March featured a very successful five-show run of *Mamma Mia!*, including a matinee show for Monomoy Regional Middle School, with 58 students participating in the cast, pit band, and crew. Later in the month, Emory Hines '26 and Wellington Holmes '27 got to perform the final concert for the All-State Music Festival on the stage of Symphony Hall after rehearsing for a full day in Worcester with the best high school musicians from across the state. March also brought the Annual Districtwide All-Arts Night. There was an open rehearsal that evening followed by a concert featuring the high school Jazz Band, Middle School Concert Band, High School Concert Band, and ending with a combined MS/HS Band.

In April, MRHS choirs and band performed their annual themed and costumed Pops Concert, with music from the British Invasion. Also in April, Emory Hines '26 and Leyla Holmes '25 performed in the All-Eastern Music Festival due to their scores from last year's All-State Music Festival. May included Senior Arts Night and the Spring Concert along with a few smaller performances.

September began with a significantly larger Concert Band and 8-12 Chorus due to an influx of instrumentalists and singers coming from the middle school, after the recruitment plan the Music Department put into place. The number of students in both the band and choirs nearly doubled this year.

October was busy with rehearsals for the incredibly successful Fall Drama Production of *The Outsiders*, based on the classic novel by S.E. Hinton, with many students involved in the cast and the student tech crew running their own lights and sound.

There were also major preparations for the local and regional music festival auditions, which Monomoy crushed in November starting with 30 MRHS music students successfully auditioning for spots in a Treble Choir, Mixed Chorus, Orchestra, and Band. Seventeen students successfully auditioned for the highly competitive Senior Southeastern District Music Festival with 9 students receiving All State Music Festival Recommendations based on their high scores including Timothy Gray '26 Emory Hines '26,

Payton MacRoberts '26, Boden Mabile '27, Wellington Holmes '27, Riley Martin '28, David Mitchell '28, Remy Schreiner '28, and Zoey MacBride '29. November ended with our 5th Annual Tour of Monomoy's middle school and elementary schools.

December brought on a busy schedule for the department with auditions for the spring musical, *The Addams Family*, bringing in 35 students. The high school Visual and Performing Arts Department took its biennial trip to New York City, which included the NYC Ballet, Broadway shows, theater workshops, and museums. Before break, the students performed in the annual Winter Concert, with over 90 students participating in the concert. Additionally, the select choir caroled at the elementary schools with a special guest appearance from The Grinch.

Monomoy Athletics

The 2025 calendar year was history-making for Monomoy Athletics. Monomoy's teams were competitive in the Cape and Islands League, with league championships won, a vast majority of our teams making post-season tournament play, and one team making the State Semifinals for the fifth straight year. Monomoy Athletics continues to be one of the winningest programs in the state in Division 4 athletics. In the 2024-2025 school year, Monomoy was recognized by the Boston Globe as the 3rd winningest Athletic Program in the Division 4 Ames Division in Massachusetts!

Monomoy's winter sports teams found the Boys Varsity Basketball team as Cape and Islands League Maritime Division Champions. The team was led by league MVP Jackson Rocco and league all-stars Finn Hyora, Jackson Morneau, and Braden Burke. The Girls Varsity basketball team had a good year competing in the Cape and Islands League Maritime Division. The girls were led by league all-stars Joanna Ready, Kiley Mawn, and Fiona Moore. Cheer had another good year competing at the South Regionals and advancing to States, where they finished 6th in Division 4. Boys Varsity Ice Hockey continued their coop with Mashpee and won their first Cape and Islands League Lighthouse Division Championship. The team was led by Cape and Islands League Lighthouse Division MVP Dom Silvester and league all stars Casey Huse, Luke Raftery, Owen Cloney, Max Cronen, Nick Garneau, and Declan Smith. The team also won the Cape and Islands League Lighthouse Division Team Sportsmanship Award. Girls Varsity Ice Hockey continued their coop with Nauset and qualified for the Division 1 State Tournament. They were led by Cape and Islands League all-star Gabby Bassett.

The spring season saw much success. The Varsity Softball team earned their third Cape and Islands Atlantic Division Championship. They also qualified for the Division 4 Statewide Tournament. They were led by Cape and Islands League MVP Kiley Mawn and all stars Lily Furman, Alana Lojko, Isabella Bellefeuille, and Kate Huse. The Varsity Baseball team qualified for the Division 4 Statewide tournament. The team was led by Cape and Islands League all stars Casey Huse, Finn Hyora, Chace Robbins, Chase Yaretts, Joey Ventura, and Tyler Layton. Varsity Boys Lacrosse won the Cape and Islands League Lighthouse Division for the second straight season and qualified for the Division 4 Statewide Tournament. The team was led by Cape and Islands League MVP Tamer Khalil and all-stars Jake Giorgio, Harry Michaud, Jed Zimmerman, Cole Strzepek, and Jackson Rocco. Varsity Girls Lacrosse qualified for the D4 Statewide Tournament. They were led by Cape and Islands League All Stars Maya Flaherty, Cassadi Manchuk, Paige Nash, Morgan Willis, and Abrielle Long. Varsity Boys Tennis qualified for the D4 Statewide tournament and advanced to the Round of 8. They were led by Cape and Islands League All Stars Ryan Casey, Roman Pavluchenko, and Zachary Shields. Varsity Girls Tennis qualified for the D4 Statewide Tournament and advanced to the D4 Elite 8 led by Cape and Islands League all-stars Ella Cutter, Darcy Addison, Karina Khalsa, and Cecelia Hand. The Varsity Girls Track team had a great season led by Cape and Islands League All Stars Varvara Conley, Alexa Ford, and Laura Stone. The Varsity Boys Track team also had a great season led by Cape and Islands League all-stars Alique Brown, Quinn Muldoon, and Chatham Gillis. The Boys Track 4x100 relay team won the Division 6 State Championship! Unified Track was excited to get back out on the track and to find their own successes. The Varsity Girls Golf team won the Cape and Islands League and competed in the South Sectional tournament led by Cape and Islands League All Stars Ava Larocco, Fiona Moore, Emily Layton, Alexis Goode, and Ashley Anderson. Sailing had another successful year on the water competing in the Cape and Islands League led by Cape and Islands League all stars Michael Considine and Hoku Hill. We continued our tradition by naming two senior Scholar Athletes of the Year at graduation. The 2025 Scholar Athletes of the Year were Fiona Moore and Casey Huse. The fall teams kicked off the new school year with a bang. The Varsity Field Hockey team advanced to the Division 4 Final Four in the Statewide Tournament for the fifth consecutive year. They were led by Cape and Islands League all-stars Emery Cappallo, Mia Zimmerman, Samantha Clarke, Kate Huse, and Tessa Grodzicki. The Varsity Boys Soccer team beat Nauset in the regular season for the first time in school history and qualified for the Division 4 Statewide Tournament. The team was led by Cape and Islands League Atlantic Division MVP Tate Laramée and all-stars Christian Shea, Tyler Layton, and Isaac Viera. Varsity Girls Soccer had a good year

led by Cape and Islands League all-stars Mackenzie Bowers, Riley Hesse, and Rylie Gillis. Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country both had great seasons led by Cape and Islands League all stars Quinn Muldoon, Sam Kelley, Chatham Gillis, Ella Baum, and Ethan Seufert. The Girls also won the Cape and Islands League Team Sportsmanship Award. Varsity Boys Golf qualified for the South Sectional Tournament led by Cape and Islands League all stars Cameron Reeves and Hank Brown. Football began a co-op with Saint John Paul and played an independent schedule this year. They had a young team that continued to improve every week. Cheer qualified for regionals. Unified Basketball had a great season and competed in a postseason Jamboree at Barnstable High School. Varsity Girls Volleyball competed in the Cape and Islands League Lighthouse Division led by Cape and Islands League all stars Rory Shortis, Ella Cutter, and Kinsey Lister.

Budget and Assessments

The District Budget

The Monomoy budget is how much it costs to fund the education of children in Harwich and Chatham. Every year, the district’s budget is presented to each community’s Town Meeting for approval. Detailed budget information is made available on the school district’s website and is provided to each town’s library and Town Hall, per the district’s regional agreement.

See below for the three most recent budgets.

	FY24	FY25	FY26
Total Budget	\$44,382,003	\$46,511,471	\$49,241,572
Increase over the previous year	3.69%	4.8%	5.87%

The priority needs that were funded in the FY26 budget included:

- a new preschool program at Chatham Elementary School;
- implementation of a new math curriculum at both elementary schools;
- two new English Language teachers; and
- critical building improvement projects,

The Regional Assessments

The assessment is how much each town pays to fund the Monomoy Regional School District, according to the formula in the Regional Agreement.

See the table below for the regional assessments for the most recent three years:

Town	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich	\$28,469,466	\$29,876,982	\$31,142,031
Chatham	\$9,710,449	\$10,308,940	\$11,118,811

The district’s regional agreement draws on the following figures to calculate the assessments:

- **Minimum required contribution:** This is calculated by the state using foundation enrollment, and the real estate and income wealth within each town.

Elementary school operating budgets: Each town is assessed 100% of the costs of the elementary school in that town.

District, middle school, and high school operating budget: Each town is assessed a share of these costs based on its share of the total foundation enrollment in grades 5-12.

General fund revenue and state aid: This revenue is assigned to offset each of the three operating budgets (the Harwich Elementary School budget, the Chatham Elementary School budget, and the Middle/High/District budget) based on the share of foundation enrollment.

Transportation budget: This is assessed to each town based on the number of Harwich and Chatham resident students who attend Monomoy schools.

District, middle school, and high school capital budget: This is assessed to the towns based on each town’s share of the average foundation enrollment for the previous three years.

District, middle school, and high school debt budget: This is assessed to each town’s share of the average foundation enrollment in grades 5-12 for the three previous years.

Foundation enrollment: This figure is all children residing in a town for which the town is financially responsible – these include children from Harwich or Chatham who are attending a Monomoy School, another local

school district through school choice, or a charter school. Children attending Cape Tech or private schools are not included in a district’s foundation enrollment.

See the tables below for the figures used in the calculation of the regional assessments for the most recent three years.

Minimum Required Contribution

Town	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich	\$14,991,331	\$15,332,048	\$16,048,080
Chatham	\$4,566,662	\$4,476,862	\$4,780,008

Operating Budgets

	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich ES	\$8,109,663	\$8,586,880	\$9,045,039
Chatham ES	\$3,441,198	\$3,828,204	\$4,065,461
Monomoy MS/HS & District	\$29,013,379	\$29,841,283	\$45,098,380

Capital Budgets

	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich ES		\$120,000	\$40,000
Chatham ES		\$40,000	\$40,000
Monomoy MS/HS & District	\$200,000	\$265,000	\$280,000

Transportation and Debt Costs

	FY24	FY25	FY26
Transportation	\$1,793,138	\$1,810,480	\$1,911,417
Debt	\$1,824,625	\$2,019,624	\$1,946,775

General Fund Revenue and State Aid

	FY24	FY25	FY26
Total General fund revenue and state aid	\$6,202,087	\$6,325,549	\$6,980,730

Foundation Enrollment*

Town	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich	1,250	1,241	
Chatham	365	370	

*Year of enrollment, FY26 not yet available

Students Attending Monomoy RSD Schools*

Town	FY24	FY25	FY26
Harwich	1,167	1,158	1,095
Chatham	356	357	333

*Year of enrollment, FY25 provisional

Capital, Extraordinary Maintenance, and Technology

Since regionalization, the school district has maintained a five-year capital, maintenance, and technology plan, with the goal of ensuring that both the physical plants and the technology infrastructure continually support learning and preserve the towns’ facilities.

Significant projects that were completed in FY25 included:

- Monomoy Regional Middle School and Chatham Elementary School replacement of carpet with tiles;
- replacement of Roof Top HVAC units at Harwich Elementary School;
- service and repair of exhaust fans at Monomoy Regional Middle School;
- renovation of the Chatham Elementary School courtyard (partly funded with Federal Grants);
- upgrades to the Monomoy Regional High School security camera system to ensure better coverage and visibility; and
- completion of the design and feasibility study for the replacement of the Monomoy Regional Middle School siding and windows.

In the FY26 budget, the District plans to undertake the following projects:

- continuing the replacement of carpet with tiles at Chatham Elementary School and Monomoy Regional Middle School;

- replacement of the district's second facilities truck (the district has two such trucks; the other was replaced in FY24); and
- replacement of smoke detectors at Monomoy Regional Middle School.

Finally, in FY26, the District also plans to begin construction on the replacement of the siding and windows at the Middle School and to complete the design and feasibility study for the replacement of the Middle School roof. The District will submit an Article to the FY26 Annual Town Meeting to request approval for the borrowing required to fund the roof replacement project.

Enrollment & School Choice

On October 1, 2025 (the FY26 school year), Monomoy Regional School District enrollment was 1,666 students, a decrease of 77 students since October 1, 2024 (FY25). Of these students, 1,645 were attending Monomoy's schools "in-district," a decrease of 83 from FY25.

Monomoy continues to be one of the few school districts on the Cape that brings in more school choice tuition than it sends out to other districts. Based on October 2025 school choice enrollments, the district received 238 students through the school choice program, and with those students, the district estimated that it would receive approximately \$1,451,484 in tuition. The district concurrently is due to pay out around \$551,568 in school choice tuition for Chatham and Harwich children attending school in other districts. These numbers will not be finalized until the end of the school year.

Staff Retirements

During the 2025 calendar year, Monomoy bid farewell to a number of retiring educators from the district. Combined, this group dedicated 190 years of service to the children of Harwich and Chatham. We appreciate and honor the service of each:

- Leslie Botsford, Grade 6 ELA Teacher at Monomoy Regional Middle School - 10 years
- Sean Burke, School Counselor at Monomoy Regional High School - 9 years
- Caroline Freitas, Culinary Arts Teacher at Monomoy Regional High School - 10 years
- Mary Hemeon, Mathematics Teacher at Monomoy Regional High School - 41 years

- Lisa McManamin, Grade 4 Teacher at Harwich Elementary School - 19 years
- Patricia Robbins, Instructional Assistant at Harwich Elementary School - 21 years
- Patricia Smith, Grade 2 Teacher at Harwich Elementary School - 24 years
- Pamela Reuss, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher at Monomoy Regional Middle School - 25 years
- Veronica Terrio, Instructional Assistant at Harwich Elementary School - 15 years
- Laura Weatherup, Speech/Language Pathologist at Harwich Elementary School - 16 years

With Gratitude

This marks the final year I will be submitting this Annual Report, as I will be retiring from Monomoy in June 2026 after 13 years with the district. I am honored to have been entrusted with this remarkable school community and am immensely proud of all the great work we have done together. I am confident that Monomoy is in excellent hands with Dr. Robin Millen as our next Superintendent. She has played an integral role in helping guide Monomoy from its infancy to where we are today. I could not think of anyone with more nurturing hands, heart, and head to guide the next chapter of our school district.

I remain eternally proud to be a Shark, and I will continue to be a Shark even in my retirement from the district.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Scott Carpenter, Superintendent

FINANCE

Report of the **Board of Assessors**

The Board of Assessors continues to meet our primary legal responsibility in assuring a fair assessment of all property in the Town of Harwich in a professional manner so that tax revenues may be generated timely.

The Town of Harwich utilizes a quarterly tax billing system. At a publicly held and publicized meeting, the Board of Assessors recommended to the Select Board that Real Property be taxed at a single tax rate which was set at \$5.81 per \$1,000 valuation for FY 2026, a decrease from the FY 2025 tax rate of \$5.91. The total value of real property in Harwich is over \$10 Billion. Values are up an average of over 4% over the previous year.

The ever changing and increasing real estate market continues to impact the value of the Town. The market had been on appreciating trend and is indicated that it will continue for third and fourth quarter. Real estate markets are cyclical, and the Department of Revenue requires the Assessor's Office to inspect approximately 10% or up to 1200 properties each year to verify appropriate assessing data. The 2026 assessed values are product of sales that occurred in 2024 and are a benchmark as of January 1st of each year. Taxpayers may review their property record card by visiting the Assessor's Office at Town Hall or online at www.harwich-ma.gov.

The Board oversees and approves a number of programs which are available for our seniors, veterans, spouses of veterans, sight impaired citizens and those who may need assistance in meeting their tax obligations. The Town also has many programs available through exemptions and deferrals which allow residents to put off paying their taxes as well. Please visit the Assessor's Office for more information.

The Board of Assessors implemented two articles from the 2025 Town Meeting. Residents approved an increase for Disabled Veterans and their spouses, and a property tax credit for taxpayers who provide affordable rentals on their property.

The Affordable Housing Tax Credit is for individual residential property owners who provide affordable rentals at rates that are established by Barnstable County for median incomes. This article has become another tool for affordable rentals in our community.

Finally, the Assessing Department was informed that a bill that was submitted to the state by us to assist residents under the age of 60 who are experiencing financial hardship, was passed. The Board is creating criteria and a vetting process for this program that will commence in FY 2027.

Your Board of Assessors continues to be proactive in creating, implementing and sustaining policies and programs that benefit those of our residents in need.

We thank our staff for their continued assistance in meeting our goals of fair assessments and timely issuance of tax bills to the community.

Please contact the Assessor’s Office for more information and details on these latest programs.

FISCAL YEAR 2026

The taxable value of all real and personal property assessed:	\$10,602,334,130.00
Total amount to be raised:	\$ 97,701,498.49
Total estimated receipts and revenue:	\$ 36,101,937.19
Net amount to be raised by taxation of real and personal property:	\$ 61,599,561.30
Tax rate for each \$1000 value assessed:	\$ 5.81
Total number of tax bills:	16,047

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE ISSUED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

19,925 -Bills were issued with a valuation of:	\$ 149,545,664.76
-Amount of tax:	\$ 3,174,318.19
667 -Abatements were issued in the amount of:	\$ 83,551.16

BOAT EXCISE ISSUED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

1,502 -Bills were issued with a valuation of:	\$ 7,749,500.00
-Amount of tax:	\$ 76,610.98
111 -Abatements were issued in the amount of:	\$ 6,440.28

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Waystack, Chairman
Bruce W. Nightingale
Jay Kavanaugh

Report of the **Capital Outlay Committee**

The Town of Harwich has a Capital Outlay Committee that consists of 7 members who are appointed for 3-year overlapping terms. Two members are appointed by the Finance Committee, two members are appointed by the Select Board, one member is appointed by the Planning Board and two members are appointed by the Town Administrator.

As of this report the members of the Committee are as follows:

Finance Committee: Scott Norum and Michele Gallucci

Select Board: Martha Donovan, Chair

Town Administrator: Paul Doane and Rich Larios

Planning Board: Ann Tucker

There is currently one vacancy from the Select Board. Anyone interested in serving on the Capital Outlay Committee is encouraged to submit a Citizens Activity Vacancy Form which can be found at the end of the Annual Report or on the town website.

The primary responsibility of the Capital Outlay Committee is to assist the Town Administrator in the development of the Capital Outlay Plan to be adopted and or amended each year at the Annual Town Meeting.

The purpose of the 5-year Capital Outlay Plan is to provide the Town with a long-range forecast of the Town's major capital improvement needs and to attempt to keep debt borrowing levels as even as possible from year to year.

A "Capital Outlay" is defined as the acquisition, construction or renovation of buildings, equipment or land having a total cost of \$50,000 or more during any budget year and planning funds for any such Capital Outlay.

During the course of a typical year, the Capital Outlay Committee engages in the following activities:

- Meets with each Department Head to review their submissions of capital requests for the 5-year period. Each Department Head submits a form which describes the project in detail, provides a cost estimate and determines need and priority. The Committee will consider subjects such as cost, timing, scope, urgency, funding sources, resources, etc.

- Perform site visits when deemed appropriate. The Capital Outlay Committee will visit the site of the project to assess and understand the scope, location, complexity, etc. of the project.
- Review the outstanding projects (“pipeline”) which were approved in prior years but not yet complete. This practice helps the Capital Outlay Committee understand resources available to take on new projects while completing existing projects.
- Review the Debt position of the Town to help determine how the 5-year Capital Plan will impact borrowing and meeting the goal of attempting to keep debt borrowing levels as even as possible from year to year.
- Conduct a joint meeting with the Select Board and the Finance Committee to present the 5-year Capital Plan.

This year, The Capital Outlay Committee met with the Monomoy Regional School District (MRSD) to review the Harwich Elementary School which the Town of Harwich became 100% responsible for in FY 2025. The Capital Outlay Committee also discussed and reviewed the MRSD Capital Budget for FY2027. While the Capital Outlay Committee does not vote or weigh in on the MRSD Capital Budget, the Select Board has asked the Capital Outlay Committee to review the MRSD Capital Budget to provide any insights that may be helpful to the Select Board.

The Capital Outlay Committee recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Judith Molstad our secretary, for keeping accurate and timely minutes of our proceedings.

We thank the Select Board, Interim Town Administrator Tony Schiavi and Natasha Lyon for their support and collaboration throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Donovan – Chair
 Ann Clark – Vice Chair
 Scott Norum – Clerk
 Michele Gallucci
 Rich Larios
 Paul Doane

Report of the **Harwich Finance Committee**

The Town of Harwich has a Finance Committee which consists of 9 members appointed by the Town moderator. Members are volunteers and serve for 3-year terms. Committee members may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms. Chapter 9 of the Town Charter specifies the duties and responsibilities of the committee. Members may not simultaneously serve on any other Town committee except for the 2 members chosen to serve on the Capital Outlay Committee.

During 2025, Tina Games and Mark Peterson were appointed to the Finance Committee. As of this report, there is a full complement of 9 members on the committee. Anyone with an interest in serving on the Finance Committee is encouraged to submit a Citizens Activity Vacancy form which can be found at the end of the Annual Report or on the Town Website.

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to review and offer opinions on the annual Town operating budget, analyze its potential impact, and present recommendations on the budget and warrant articles, that require a vote by the Town Meeting participants, to Harwich residents at Town Meetings.

During the course of a typical year the Finance Committee engages in the following activities:

1. Reviews the proposed Town Operating Budget and conducts at least one public budget hearing to solicit comments/feedback on the proposed spending plan.
2. Reviews and makes recommendations on reports of Town fiscal operations.
3. Makes disposition of budget transfer requests as proposed during the course of the year.
4. Conducts a joint meeting with the Select Board to review the Capital Outlay Plan annually and provide recommendations as appropriate.
5. Works with the Select Board on matters involving town finances.
6. Annually reviews the Town's debt schedule.
7. Administers the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

In Harwich, the Town Administrator, with direction from the Select Board, develops the annual town operating budget. The Finance Committee's role is to review the budget and make its own recommendations for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. In addition, the Finance Committee reviews warrant articles associated with any and all town meetings and makes recommendations on each article.

Historically, the process of developing the Operating Budget is as follows:

- On or before the 1st of October the Town Administrator presents the Select Board with the current financial assessment of the town including estimates of revenues for the coming year.
- On or before the 1st Tuesday in October the Select Board issues a general policy statement to guide the Town Administrator in the development of the budget.
- By the 1st Friday in December budget requests shall be received by the Town Administrator.
- On or before the 2nd Tuesday in February the Town Administrator shall submit to the Select Board a comprehensive operating budget and a corresponding budget message.
- The Select Board and the Finance Committee meet jointly and/or severally in budget hearings as necessary to adequately review the proposed budget.
- On or before the 4th Tuesday in February the Select Board submits an operating budget to the Finance Committee which has been approved by the Select Board.
- The Finance Committee conducts at least one public hearing on the proposed budget and, by March 31, submits its written recommendations on the operating budget and on all articles to appear in the warrant.

Scott Norum and Michele Gallucci are the current Committee representatives to the Capital Outlay Committee. During 2025, Michele replaced Mark Kelleher after his election to the Select Board. In addition, the Finance Committee appointed liaisons to all major departments and committees with significant budget responsibilities to facilitate communications and provide a focal point for the transfer of information. Finance Committee members actively participate in the MA Association of Finance Committees.

The Finance Committee has previously issued a report recommending that all revolving accounts be reviewed in depth to confirm each account's appropriateness for the functional area involved and appropriate level of funding. Specifically, in the case of the 204 Sisson Road property, the Finance Committee recommended that the vast majority of revenue and expenses should be migrated to the Town Operating Budget and that, as a consequence, the funding amount be significantly reduced.

The Finance Committee has a Reserve Fund in place to address unplanned town expenses. Requests for Reserve Fund transfers are received and acted upon by the Finance Committee if and when requested.

The Finance Committee recognizes and appreciates past Committee member Angelo LaMantia's contributions to the Committee.

The Finance Committee recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Judith Moldstad, our secretary, for keeping accurate and timely minutes of our proceedings.

We thank the Select Board, Town Administrator and staff for their support and collaboration throughout the year.

Respectively submitted:

Robert MacCready – Chair
Scott Norum – Vice Chair
Dana DeCosta – Clerk
Mark Ameres
Michele Gallucci
Daniel Tworek
Tina Games
Mark Peterson
Peter Hughes

Report of the **Finance Division**

To the Honorable Select Board, Town Officials, and Residents of Harwich:

It is my privilege to present the financial summary for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) as part of the Annual Town Report. This year reflects continued fiscal responsibility and strategic planning to maintain the Town's financial stability while meeting community needs.

We recently maintained our AAA bond rating for the Town from Standard & Poor's.

While transition and vacant positions have impacted Finance in recent years, the team is now fully staffed, and I am grateful to work with such an amazing team. I want to thank Krystle Legendre - Treasurer, Carlene Jones – Assessing Director for their contribution to this report and for working so hard before and since my arrival. I also want to thank all other Finance staff, without whom none of this would be possible. That includes Catherine Peters, Cheri Reisner, Cathryn Ready, Daniel Steidel, David Shaffer, Madison Griben, and Melissa Cameron. I would also like to thank Megan Green, who has since left the town of Harwich as well as Eric Kinsherf and his amazing team that helped keep everything moving forward.

Financial Position

As of June 30, 2025, the Town's combined balance sheet across all fund types reports total assets of \$112.5 million and total liabilities of \$51.3 million, resulting in a fund equity of \$61.2 million. This strong position underscores prudent management of reserves and debt obligations, including

\$42.2 million in long-term debt allocated primarily for capital projects and infrastructure improvements.

Revenue Summary

FY25 total operating revenue reached \$81,368,156, an increase from FY24's \$79.5 million. The primary revenue source remains real estate and property taxes, which contributed \$58.94 million, representing approximately 72% of total revenues. Local receipts accounted for \$18.3 million, driven by excise taxes, hotel/meals revenue, and golf operations. State aid and other sources supplemented revenues, ensuring balanced operations.

Expenditure Overview

Total expenditures for FY25 were \$76,146,198, reflecting a 6.5% increase over FY24. Of this amount: Town operations totaled \$44.06 million, with significant allocations to public safety (Police: \$4.96M; Fire: \$6.02M), public works (\$6.45M), and employee benefits (\$5.92M for group insurance). Education remains a major investment, with \$32.08 million dedicated to schools, including Monomoy Regional School District and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School assessments.

Fiscal Outlook

The Town continues to maintain healthy reserves and a balanced approach to capital planning. While operating costs and school assessments have grown, revenue performance and stabilization measures have positioned Harwich to meet future obligations without compromising essential services.

Last, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Select Board, Interim Town Administrator Tony Schiavi and all other town staff, volunteers and elected officials for their support and trust in my first few weeks as Finance Director. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the departments of the town for their essential support thus far during our transition.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L Mince
Finance Director
Town of Harwich

Revenue Trends FY23-FY25

Year	Total Revenue	Property Taxes	Local Receipts
FY23	74,426,889	54,038,588	17,995,436
FY24	79,514,945	57,223,318	19,971,895
FY25	81,368,156	58,943,964	18,316,545

Expenditure Trends FY23-FY25

Year	Total Expenditures	Town Operations	Education
FY23	68,567,535	39,341,555	29,225,979
FY24	71,505,343	41,043,385	30,461,958
FY25	76,146,198	44,064,396	32,081,802

Finance Department

The Finance Department consists of all accounting and budgeting functions. It is responsible for oversight of all financial transactions of the town including special revenue, enterprise, trust and agency funds. The division interacts with all departments as well as many outside organizations, including Federal and State granting agencies, the State Department of Revenue, vendors, auditors and the public. The division also provides support to numerous committees and boards.

Treasury/Collection Department

The Treasury Department is responsible for the town's payroll processing, management of cash and debt activity and the town's tax title accounts. The Department oversees all tax bill processing, and the collection of all taxes, water user fees and beach and transfer station sales. Property taxes and water utility charges are billed on a quarterly basis. Motor vehicle excise taxes are billed when tax commitments are received from the RMV; typically 7 or 8 times per calendar year. The Department also issues annual boat excise tax. Additionally, the Treasury Department receives and records all cash and check payments collected by other Town Departments. The Department is the main intake point for new/rehired employees; distributing/collecting necessary employment paperwork, software entry of employee information, and benefits administration.

Assessing Department

The Assessing Department provides services in the area of property valuation, property listing, and customer service. The Assessing Department is responsible for determining tax base growth, assessing property valuation, and setting the tax rate. They prepare and maintain current data on each parcel assessed, including maps of boundaries, inventories of land and structures, property characteristics and legal ownership. As well as, the processing of motor vehicle and boat excises, abatements, exemptions, and public record requests. Property valuation is a process which the Assessors must value all real and personal property within their communities as of January 1 of each year. Assessed valuations are based on "fair market value", the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller on the open market. Tax base growth encompasses field investigation of building permit applications to capture new homes, additions, and real improvements to all property types. The Department of Revenue (DOR) reviews a community's values every year and certifies they reflect current fair market value.

FinanceDepartment

Workload Indicators	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Actual
Vendor Invoices Processed	11,767	13,271	13,553
General Ledger Accounts Maintained	16,170	16,397	16,560
General Journal Transactions Processed	4,536	5,227	4,858

Treasury Department

Workload Indicators	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Actual
Vendor Checks Processed	5,620	6,131	7,081
Payroll Checks Processed	482	505	500
Direct Deposits	14,647	15,129	17,860

Performance Measures	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Actual
Percentage of the net property tax levy collected in the fiscal year levied	97.6%	98.6%	97.4%
Percentage of the new property tax levy collected to date including the amounts collected subsequent to the fiscal year levied	99.9%	100.0%	99.0%

Assessing Department

Performance Measures	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Actual
Total Properties Assessed	11,373	11,353	11,352
Number of RE Abatements Filed	26	21	16
% of Properties Filing Abatements	0.23%	0.18%	0.14%

Number of Abatements Granted	13	9	12
Average Abatement Dollar per Appeal	\$1,068.02	\$551.59	\$3,390.91
Total Tax Dollar Value for Appeals Granted*	\$13,884.25	\$4,964.31	\$40,690.94
Percentage of FY Tax Levy for Appeals Granted	0.03%	0.01%	0.1%
Workload Indicators	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Actual
Appellate Tax Board Appeals Settled	0	0	1
Exemptions Processed	266	279	279

RE/PP Abatements Processed	44	40	35
MVE Abatements Processed	504	765	481
Building Permits Inspected	1146	1132	1218
Property Transfers (Deeds) Processed	801	772	791

Town of Harwich

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups

as of June 30, 2025

(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fund Types		Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt		
ASSETS									
Cash and cash equivalents	15,338,015.42	8,741,678.77	1,834,136.85	5,033,416.21		27,574,655.92			58,521,903.17
Investments						630,180.14			630,180.14
Receivables:									
Personal property taxes	88,713.99								88,713.99
Real estate taxes	2,014,558.80					63,892.88			2,078,451.68
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(1,021,526.16)								(1,021,526.16)
Tax liens	2,364,598.86			22,572.88		49,271.71			2,436,443.45
Deferred taxes	76,722.42								76,722.42
Motor vehicle excise	416,772.67								416,772.67
Other excises	55,502.18								55,502.18
User fees									0.00
Utility liens added to taxes									0.00
Departmental	789,356.89			1,206,932.23		74,049.02			2,070,338.14
Special assessments		179,643.32							179,643.32
Due from other governments									0.00
Other receivables		344.00							344.00
Foreclosures/Possessions									0.00
Prepays									0.00
Due to/from other funds									0.00
Working deposit									0.00
Inventory		96,863.47							96,863.47
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								42,200,711.24	42,200,711.24
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds									0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave									0.00
Total Assets	24,821,146.59	9,018,529.56	1,834,136.85	6,262,921.32	0.00	28,392,049.67	42,200,711.24		112,529,495.23

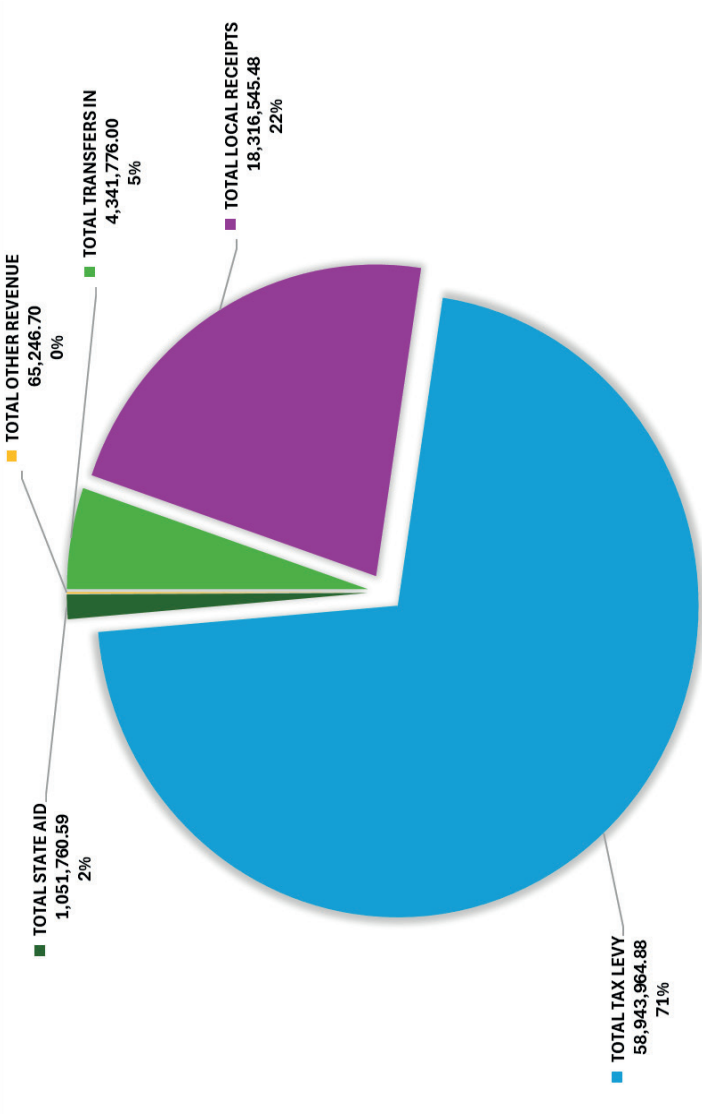
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:								
Warrants payable								0.00
Accounts payable	(8,446.08)					(44.34)		(8,490.42)
Accrued payroll								0.00
Withholdings	189,974.56							189,974.56
Accrued claims payable								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Other liabilities	287,442.37	486,813.83						774,256.20

TOWN OPERATING REVENUE FY 23-25

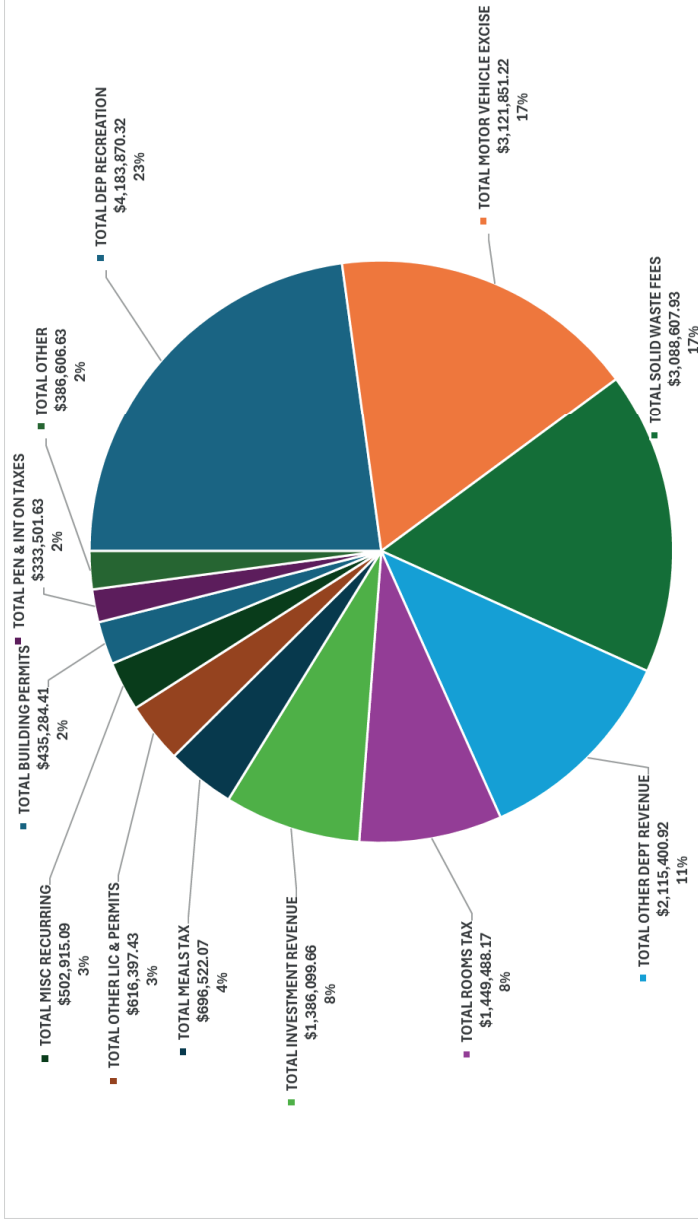
	ACUTAL FY23	ACTUAL FY24	ACTUAL FY25
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY TAXES	54,038,588.00	57,223,318.00	58,943,964.88
LOCAL RECEIPTS:			
EXCISE TAX	2,571,018.00	2,845,950.00	3,147,982.06
HOTEL/ROOMS & MEALS	1,567,694.00	2,106,034.00	2,146,010.24
AMBULANCE	2,054,621.00	2,001,114.00	2,089,642.25
WASTE DISPOSAL	3,764,700.00	3,337,152.00	3,088,607.93
BEACH, RECREATION & YOUTH	452,012.00	452,824.00	481,670.00
HARBORS & LANDINGS	1,362,095.00	1,386,242.00	1,326,230.84
GOLF OPERATIONS	2,264,197.00	2,274,756.00	2,375,969.48
OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	3,959,099.00	5,567,823.00	3,660,432.68
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	17,995,436.00	19,971,895.00	18,316,545.48
STATE AID:			
CHERRY SHEET	823,781.00	688,575.00	888,675.86
OTHER STATE REVENUE	-	-	163,084.73
OTHER:			
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUE & FORECLOSURE REVENUE	-	-	65,246.70
FREE CASH	-	-	500,000.00
STABILIZATION FUND	-	-	500,000.00
OVERLAY SURPLUS	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
HARBOR CAPITAL MANAGEMENT	-	-	200,000.00
HARBOR WATERWAYS FUND	-	-	200,000.00
CABLE FUND (COMCAST)	190,869.00	214,996.00	226,964.00
WATER ENTERPRISE INDIRECT COSTS	759,278.00	818,913.00	861,327.00
SEWER ENTERPRISE INDIRECT COSTS	31,687.00	62,148.00	62,148.00
FEMA	-	-	-
SEPTIC LOAN BETTERMENT	-	-	2,000.00
ROAD BETTERMENTS	32,210.00	16,776.00	15,000.00
ALLEN HARBOR BETTERMENTS	31,815.00	53,224.00	78,000.00
GP BETTERMENT	-	-	50,000.00
GOLF INFRASTRUCTURE REVITALIZATION FUND	-	-	-
GOLF IMPROVEMENT FUND	101,700.00	98,450.00	95,200.00
SAQ MOORING	-	-	-
SAQ WATERWAYS	-	-	-
CPA FUNDS (LAND BANK)	221,525.00	166,650.00	-
TOWN CLERK STATE AID	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	74,426,889.00	79,514,945.00	81,368,156.65

General Fund Revenues FY2025



LOCAL RECEIPT BY TYPE

FY2025



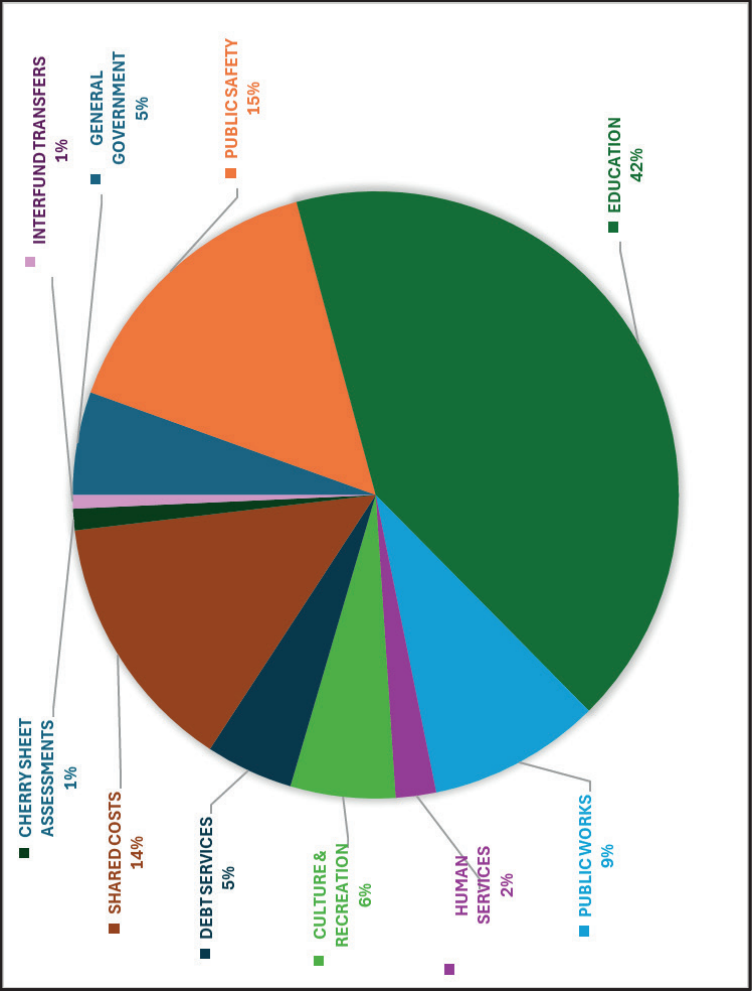
TOWN OPERATION EXPENDITURES FY23-25					
DEPT	DEPT NAME	TYPE	FY23	FY24	FY25
114	MODERATOR	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
114	MODERATOR	EXPENSES	-	-	-
114 Total			-	-	-
122	SELECTMEN	SALARIES & WAGES	11,800.00	11,200.00	12,000.00
122	SELECTMEN	EXPENSES	7,691.50	6,375.97	5,056.68
122 Total			19,491.50	17,575.97	17,056.68
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	SALARIES & WAGES	1,165.29	1,092.59	1,577.60
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	EXPENSES	1,002.03	1,714.59	1,284.02
131 Total			2,167.32	2,807.18	2,861.62
132	RESERVE FUND	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
132	RESERVE FUND	EXPENSES	-	-	-
132 Total			-	-	-
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	SALARIES & WAGES	264,375.10	289,456.23	169,229.28
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	EXPENSES	42,122.33	29,615.57	100,304.00
135 Total			306,497.43	319,071.80	269,533.28
136	AUDIT	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
136	AUDIT	EXPENSES	40,000.00	41,460.00	29,951.25
136 Total			40,000.00	41,460.00	29,951.25
141	ASSESSORS	SALARIES & WAGES	117,433.86	165,376.62	197,908.66
141	ASSESSORS	EXPENSES	218,435.59	147,180.70	143,499.88
141 Total			335,869.45	312,557.32	341,408.54
143	TOWN COLLECTIONS	SALARIES & WAGES	11,892.49	17,178.45	14,252.08
143	TOWN COLLECTIONS	EXPENSES	7,741.85	6,850.17	6,997.84
143 Total			19,634.34	24,028.62	21,249.92
144	POSTAGE	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
144	POSTAGE	EXPENSES	50,662.22	50,067.99	64,461.18
144 Total			50,662.22	50,067.99	64,461.18
145	TREASURER	SALARIES & WAGES	290,467.25	207,903.76	223,172.87
145	TREASURER	EXPENSES	77,438.59	248,020.23	194,532.02
145 Total			367,905.84	455,923.99	417,704.89
148	FICA	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
148	FICA	EXPENSES	375,847.41	387,959.07	355,298.69
148 Total			375,847.41	387,959.07	355,298.69
149	ADMINISTRATION	SALARIES & WAGES	527,838.25	419,088.09	509,293.85
149	ADMINISTRATION	EXPENSES	92,677.31	123,277.43	363,590.09
149 Total			620,515.56	542,365.52	872,883.94
151	LEGAL SERVICES	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
151	LEGAL SERVICES	EXPENSES	236,612.22	260,131.18	259,151.24
151 Total			236,612.22	260,131.18	259,151.24
152	CLAIMS & SUITS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
152	CLAIMS & SUITS	EXPENSES	-	-	-
152 Total			-	-	-
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	SALARIES & WAGES	75,866.28	96,349.24	101,152.55
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	EXPENSES	380,348.89	439,393.68	402,079.65
155 Total			456,215.17	535,742.92	503,232.20
156	CHANNEL 18	SALARIES & WAGES	161,327.38	167,997.23	175,841.16
156	CHANNEL 18	EXPENSES	32,622.20	36,839.94	36,101.76
156 Total			193,949.58	204,837.17	211,942.92
157	CONSTABLE S & W	SALARIES & WAGES	375.00	375.00	375.00
157	CONSTABLE S & W	EXPENSES	-	-	-
157 Total			375.00	375.00	375.00
161	TOWN CLERK	SALARIES & WAGES	230,151.18	244,310.29	272,065.00

161	TOWN CLERK	EXPENSES	60,068.59	49,648.07	72,694.41
161 Total			290,219.77	293,958.36	344,759.41
171	CONSERVATION	SALARIES & WAGES	163,191.52	178,520.61	189,340.40
171	CONSERVATION	EXPENSES	6,443.21	6,722.33	8,756.99
171 Total			169,634.73	185,242.94	198,097.39
173	HOUSING	SALARIES & WAGES	-	64,590.17	78,697.31
173	HOUSING	EXPENSES	-	202.68	997.87
173 Total			-	64,792.85	79,695.18
174	TOWN PLANNER	SALARIES & WAGES	124,168.89	131,730.58	140,498.47
174	TOWN PLANNER	EXPENSES	6,838.89	1,545.14	530.88
174 Total			131,007.78	133,275.72	141,029.35
176	BOARD OF APPEALS	SALARIES & WAGES	1,373.09	3,645.95	223.33
176	BOARD OF APPEALS	EXPENSES	-	-	-
176 Total			1,373.09	3,645.95	223.33
180	ALBRO HOUSE	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
180	ALBRO HOUSE	EXPENSES	2,854.81	3,508.72	4,395.33
180 Total			2,854.81	3,508.72	4,395.33
181	OLD RECR. BUILDING	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
181	OLD RECR. BUILDING	EXPENSES	4,916.04	5,124.03	6,033.81
181 Total			4,916.04	5,124.03	6,033.81
183	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
183	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	EXPENSES	5,039.34	3,972.79	2,831.94
183 Total			5,039.34	3,972.79	2,831.94
191	PUBLIC BUILDINGS REPAIR	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
191	PUBLIC BUILDINGS REPAIR	EXPENSES	-	-	-
191 Total			-	-	-
192	TOWN/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
192	TOWN/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS	EXPENSES	10,085.93	9,468.82	8,518.98
192 Total			10,085.93	9,468.82	8,518.98
194	ADVERTISING	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
194	ADVERTISING	EXPENSES	21,954.00	17,256.00	18,132.00
194 Total			21,954.00	17,256.00	18,132.00
199	CVEC ELECTRIC	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
199	CVEC ELECTRIC	EXPENSES	46,339.04	43,098.20	42,956.82
199 Total			46,339.04	43,098.20	42,956.82
210	POLICE	SALARIES & WAGES	4,205,150.53	4,491,422.35	4,466,672.24
210	POLICE	EXPENSES	410,505.41	544,897.71	496,431.67
210 Total			4,615,655.94	5,036,320.06	4,963,103.91
220	FIRE	SALARIES & WAGES	4,448,110.19	4,860,502.08	5,352,600.07
220	FIRE	EXPENSES	572,883.72	729,706.96	670,938.97
220 Total			5,020,993.91	5,590,209.04	6,023,539.04
241	BUILDING	SALARIES & WAGES	293,959.67	391,952.99	393,738.99
241	BUILDING	EXPENSES	11,746.15	14,759.37	14,213.52
241 Total			305,705.82	406,712.36	407,952.51
242	GAS	SALARIES & WAGES	77,255.66	82,955.37	77,937.18
242	GAS	EXPENSES	-	-	-
242 Total			77,255.66	82,955.37	77,937.18
244	WEIGHTS & MEASURES	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
244	WEIGHTS & MEASURES	EXPENSES	13,725.03	14,401.72	14,885.24
244 Total			13,725.03	14,401.72	14,885.24
245	ELECTRICAL	SALARIES & WAGES	78,281.96	86,587.03	89,241.72
245	ELECTRICAL	EXPENSES	-	-	-
245 Total			78,281.96	86,587.03	89,241.72
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	EXPENSES	5,000.00	1,452.03	1,613.16

291 Total			5,000.00	1,452.03	1,613.16
296	NATURAL RESOURCES	SALARIES & WAGES	121,473.58	104,111.22	95,707.90
296	NATURAL RESOURCES	EXPENSES	27,089.22	19,106.66	34,881.20
296 Total			148,562.80	123,217.88	130,589.10
297	PLEASANT BAY ALLIANCE	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
297	PLEASANT BAY ALLIANCE	EXPENSES	25,232.00	28,151.00	31,077.00
297 Total			25,232.00	28,151.00	31,077.00
411	TOWN ENGINEER	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
411	TOWN ENGINEER	EXPENSES	53,528.50	31,979.00	175,600.00
411 Total			53,528.50	31,979.00	175,600.00
421	HIGHWAY	SALARIES & WAGES	2,859,334.30	2,940,811.80	2,979,451.85
421	HIGHWAY	EXPENSES	3,656,566.94	3,508,745.32	3,470,369.90
421 Total			6,515,901.24	6,449,557.12	6,449,821.75
423	SNOW/ICE	SALARIES & WAGES	31,855.12	58,963.16	104,562.74
423	SNOW/ICE	EXPENSES	97,609.28	199,704.90	220,505.60
423 Total			129,464.40	258,668.06	325,068.34
424	STREET LIGHTS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
424	STREET LIGHTS	EXPENSES	21,828.65	24,370.61	32,164.53
424 Total			21,828.65	24,370.61	32,164.53
491	CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION	SALARIES & WAGES	79,276.54	79,883.52	83,474.24
491	CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION	EXPENSES	5,017.94	6,130.31	5,771.00
491 Total			84,294.48	86,013.83	89,245.24
510	BOARD OF HEALTH	SALARIES & WAGES	262,759.94	265,970.10	284,264.26
510	BOARD OF HEALTH	EXPENSES	16,588.40	13,245.73	18,475.78
510 Total			279,348.34	279,215.83	302,740.04
540	COMMUNITY CENTER	SALARIES & WAGES	215,231.53	262,799.69	277,499.25
540	COMMUNITY CENTER	EXPENSES	114,677.14	128,287.22	170,465.41
540 Total			329,908.67	391,086.91	447,964.66
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	SALARIES & WAGES	394,208.72	446,836.51	450,372.54
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	EXPENSES	107,709.25	111,005.02	117,054.86
541 Total			501,917.97	557,841.53	567,427.40
542	YOUTH COUNSELOR	SALARIES & WAGES	140,584.07	82,284.60	84,770.66
542	YOUTH COUNSELOR	EXPENSES	2,878.88	3,505.35	4,376.46
542 Total			143,462.95	85,789.95	89,147.12
543	VETERANS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
543	VETERANS	EXPENSES	130,478.91	139,824.80	154,758.70
543 Total			130,478.91	139,824.80	154,758.70
550	DISABILITY RIGHTS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
550	DISABILITY RIGHTS	EXPENSES	-	-	-
550 Total			-	-	-
560	HUMAN SERVICES	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
560	HUMAN SERVICES	EXPENSES	81,811.25	73,140.59	91,479.94
560 Total			81,811.25	73,140.59	91,479.94
610	LIBRARY	SALARIES & WAGES	740,969.62	749,052.37	795,801.34
610	LIBRARY	EXPENSES	278,629.03	299,326.51	330,659.76
610 Total			1,019,598.65	1,048,378.88	1,126,461.10
629	RECREATION SEASONAL	SALARIES & WAGES	229,541.08	244,568.77	219,465.56
629	RECREATION SEASONAL	EXPENSES	-	-	-
629 Total			229,541.08	244,568.77	219,465.56
630	RECREATION & YOUTH	SALARIES & WAGES	282,250.91	284,611.38	302,861.11
630	RECREATION & YOUTH	EXPENSES	44,556.83	57,274.13	72,592.33
630 Total			326,807.74	341,885.51	375,453.44
633	HARBORMASTER	SALARIES & WAGES	369,169.19	361,421.44	366,872.00
633	HARBORMASTER	EXPENSES	170,078.42	406,852.80	344,842.79
633 Total			539,247.61	768,274.24	711,714.79

670	BROOKS MUSEUM COMMISSION	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
670	BROOKS MUSEUM COMMISSION	EXPENSES	6,925.54	8,377.16	10,770.91
670 Total			6,925.54	8,377.16	10,770.91
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	SALARIES & WAGES	518.61	199.05	-
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	EXPENSES	-	192.50	-
691 Total			518.61	391.55	-
692	CELEBRATIONS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	-	-
692	CELEBRATIONS	EXPENSES	-	-	-
692 Total			-	-	-
695	GOLF	SALARIES & WAGES	951,854.35	967,309.84	999,924.07
695	GOLF	EXPENSES	661,697.71	648,482.29	705,891.86
695 Total			1,613,552.06	1,615,792.13	1,705,815.93
698	CULTURAL AFFAIRS	SALARIES & WAGES	-	82,757.00	86,502.71
698	CULTURAL AFFAIRS	EXPENSES	-	2,184.49	2,418.88
698 Total			-	84,941.49	88,921.59
Grand Total TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS			26,007,717.34	27,778,352.56	28,917,744.79
700	BOND PRINCIPAL & INTEREST	EXPENSES	3,116,168.76	2,541,800.00	3,586,291.06
821	STATE ASSESSMENTS	EXPENSES	322,102.00	323,713.00	354,878.00
831	BARNSTABLE CTY ASSESSMENTS	EXPENSES	3,747,684.32	3,716,000.00	4,065,984.34
835	CAPE COD COMMISSION ASSESSMNTS	EXPENSES	260,304.04	264,793.00	271,500.34
913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	EXPENSES	41,237.68	33,327.79	19,332.90
914	GROUP INSURANCE CH. 32B	EXPENSES	5,022,785.87	5,485,695.16	5,917,050.80
945	GENERAL INSURANCE	EXPENSES	804,855.34	891,777.52	910,114.18
946	GENERAL INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES	EXPENSES	18,700.00	7,926.40	21,500.00
TOTAL TOWN			39,341,555.35	41,043,385.43	44,064,396.41
301	C C REGIONAL TECH HIGH SCHOOL	EXPENSES	1,895,921.00	1,970,056.00	2,204,820.00
302	MRS D	EXPENSES	27,301,458.00	28,469,466.00	29,876,982.00
392	MIDDLE SCHOOL BLDG	EXPENSES	28,600.72	22,436.26	-
TOTAL SCHOOLS			29,225,979.72	30,461,958.26	32,081,802.00
TOTAL			68,567,535.07	71,505,343.69	76,146,198.41

General Fund Expenditures by Function FY2025



Town of Harwich
Combining Balance Sheet - Enterprise Funds
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

	Water Fund 1320	Wastewater Fund 1330	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	Enterprise Fund	Enterprise Fund	Only)
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4,175,835.38	857,580.83	5,033,416.21
Investments			0.00
Receivables:			
User Fees	1,164,315.87	42,616.36	1,206,932.23
Special assessments			0.00
Utility liens added to taxes	22,572.88		22,572.88
Tax foreclosures			0.00
Departmental			0.00
Other receivables			0.00
Due from other governments			0.00
Due to/from other funds			0.00
Prepays			0.00
Inventory			0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation			0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds			0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave			0.00
Total Assets	<u>5,362,724.13</u>	<u>900,197.19</u>	<u>6,262,921.32</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u>			
Liabilities:			
Warrants payable			0.00
Accounts payable			0.00
Accrued payroll and withholdings			0.00
Other liabilities			0.00
Deferred revenue:			
User Charges	1,164,315.87	42,616.36	1,206,932.23
Special assessments			0.00
Utility liens added to taxes	22,572.88		22,572.88
Tax foreclosures			0.00
Departmental			0.00
Other receivables			0.00
Due from other governments			0.00
Due to other governments			0.00
Due to/from other funds			0.00
Notes payable			0.00
Bonds payable			0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability			0.00
Total Liabilities	<u>1,186,888.75</u>	<u>42,616.36</u>	<u>1,229,505.11</u>

	Water Fund 1320 Enterprise Fund	Wastewater Fund 1330 Enterprise Fund	(Memorandum Only)
Fund Equity:			
Reserved for encumbrances	434,894.45	416,483.50	851,377.95
Reserved for expenditures	700,000.00	155,000.00	855,000.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	429,597.63	75,000.00	504,597.63
Reserved for petty cash			0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit			0.00
Reserved for debt service			0.00
Unreserved retained earnings	2,611,343.30	211,097.33	2,822,440.63
Investment in capital assets			0.00
Total Fund Equity	<u>4,175,835.38</u>	<u>857,580.83</u>	<u>5,033,416.21</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>5,362,724.13</u>	<u>900,197.19</u>	<u>6,262,921.32</u>
PROOF	0.00	0.00	0.00

Town of Harwich
Capital Project Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Enterprise Fund Name <u>(if applicable)</u>	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2025	Receipts thru 9/30/2025	BAN's 6/30/2025	BAN's / Debt Issued 7/1/2025 - 9/30/2025	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2025
0400	Capital Fund - Wastewater Phase 2				(287,915.59)				(287,915.59)
0445	Capital Fund - Harbor				(22,838.56)				0.00
0470	Capital Fund - Water				4,900,514.14				0.00
0490	Capital Fund - Wastewater Phase 3 & 8				(2,755,623.14)	3,468,831.00			0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
Total Capital Projects	Fund Balance		0.00	0.00	1,834,136.85	3,468,831.00	0.00	0.00	(310,754.15)

Town of Harwich
Special Revenue Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2025	Receipts thru 9/30/2025	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2025
1102	Police Safety Vests			14,855.00			0.00
1104	Fire Student Safe			4,151.56			0.00
1105	Fire Senior Safe			2,218.00			0.00
1116	Access for All Library			617.75			0.00
1117	Assistance to Fire Fighters			0.00			0.00
1122	FEMA - Fire Grant			(23,356.91)			(23,356.91)
1125	USDA NAT RES CONSERVATION GRANT			(70,915.71)			(70,915.71)
1190	Covid-19 Cares Act			48.75			0.00
1191	Covid-19 FEMA			29,777.52			0.00
1195	ARPA			407,635.09			0.00
1199	FEMA Recovery			2,865.67			0.00
1202	Pump Out Boat			55,240.47			0.00
1204	SAQ Harbor Reef			6,778.00			0.00
1205	State Recycling Grant			6,160.00			0.00
1208	Hwy Ch63753(d)			1,786.34			0.00
1210	Elder Affairs			95,883.73			0.00
1211	COA - CCRTA Grant			11,678.12			0.00
1213	Fire Safety Equipment			323.21			0.00
1217	Pub Safety Equip			358.67			0.00
1218	Traffic Enforcement			(329.58)			(329.58)
1225	Chapter 90			44,969.51			0.00
1228	SEDEWALKS			19,230.00			0.00
1233	BLDG GREEN COMMUNITIES			33,848.00			0.00
1237	Fire Safe Grant			0.00			0.00
1240	Brooks Library Aid			136,387.27			0.00
1241	Ride Share TNC DPU			21,904.30			0.00
1243	Mun Port Loop Press			2,840.98			0.00
1245	Mass DOT Grant			346.78			0.00
1246	Highway Other State Grants			(62,620.00)			(62,620.00)
1247	IT Grants			328,783.00			0.00
1248	Town Clerk Grants			0.00			0.00
1279	MVP Action Grants			0.00			0.00
1288	Cultural District Grants			4,744.64			0.00
1290	Planning Dept Grants			9,944.30			0.00
1295	Town Clerk Aid			9,081.87			0.00
1296	Flu Program			16,638.88			0.00
1301	Grants/Gifts			(15,187.79)			(15,187.79)
1305	Barns Cty Nitrogen			6,845.23			0.00
1321	New County Grant			6,762.45			0.00
1323	Wellness			728.45			0.00
1325	Barnstable County ARPA			5.31			0.00
1327	Opioid Settlement			209,801.73			0.00
1401	Shellfish Lab Gift			6,900.00			0.00
1403	Cemetery Gift			33,943.51			0.00
1404	Brooks Library Bldg Gift			0.00			0.00
1408	COA Gift			89,316.43			0.00
1413	Cultural Affairs Gift Account			75.00			0.00
1415	Cran Valley Memorial Gift			150.00			0.00
1418	YOUTH COUNSELOR GIFT			200.00			0.00
1424	Caleb Chase Assistance Gift			965.91			0.00
1426	Friends of Harwich Beaches Gift			3,302.67			0.00
1428	Harwich Community Grants			13,500.00			0.00
1501	Cultural Council			10,177.79			0.00
1504	Brooks Library Fial Gift			43,026.84			0.00
1505	Brooks Library Regular Gift			11,732.95			0.00
1510	Ambulance Fund			12,616.19			0.00
1512	Town Nurse Gift			1,040.36			0.00
1513	Parks & Recreation			13,026.56			0.00
1514	Whitehouse field			2,083.61			0.00
1515	Harwich Conservation Gift			1,025.00			0.00
1516	Community Center Gift			122,750.88			0.00
1519	Crowell Barn Fence Gift			0.00			0.00
1520	Police Animal Care Gift			14,849.25			0.00
1526	Trail Committee Gift			194.50			0.00
1529	Harwich Town Band Gift			292.66			0.00
1530	Wetlands Conservation			32,385.91			0.00
1534	Mitigation Fees			22,595.39			0.00
1540	Recreation Revolving			144,813.34			0.00
1541	CV golf Infrastructure RVTILZN			217,166.77			0.00
1542	COA Revolving			16,235.25			0.00
1543	Golf Revolving		132,359.85	463,109.24			0.00
1544	Community Center			104,033.92			0.00
1545	Golf Improvement Receipts Reserved			688,894.24			0.00

Special Revenue Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2025	Receipts thru 9/30/2025	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2025
1546	Albro House Revolving			51,808.36			0.00
1548	Sidewalk Revolving			69,958.54			0.00
1549	Tax Title Revolving			(2,741.67)	10,738.91		0.00
1550	The Cultural Center Revolving			143,769.79			0.00
1602	Police Cruiser Insurance Rec			1,581.34			0.00
1603	Sale of Land RRA			1,583,450.17			0.00
1605	Highway Insurance Recovery			7,296.65			0.00
1609	St Aid Library			(0.17)			(0.17)
1611	Cemetery Lot Sales Revolving			13,248.80			0.00
1614	Cable Fund Reserve for Appropriation			1,680,956.25			0.00
1615	Police Insurance Recovery			2,439.02			0.00
1621	Water Ways Management Receipts Reserved			473,970.37			0.00
1626	Harbor Improvement & Maintenance Receipts Reserved			491,264.41			0.00
1655	Friends of Harwich Bikeways			225.42			0.00
1701	Septic Loan Betterment	4,825.00	4,825.00	3,171.80			0.00
1703	McGuerty Road Betterment			735.22			0.00
1704	Skinequit Road Betterment	36,464.00	36,464.00	12,818.45			0.00
1705	Ginger Plum Lane Betterment	31,126.02	31,126.02	26,816.40			0.00
1730	Cultural Council Gift			2,293.58			0.00
1740	Allen Harbor Betterment	107,572.30	107,572.30	39,662.95			0.00
1750	Affordable Housing (Cell Tower)			224,608.12			0.00
1900	Planning Board Escrow			0.00			0.00
Total Special Revenue Fund Balance				179,987.32	312,347.17	8,219,368.56	0.00
					10,738.91		(172,410.16)

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Please enter amount reported in the **agency fund liability cell** of the combined balance sheet.

Town of Harwich
Trust Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2025	Receipts thru 9/30/2025	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2025
8002	Police/Fire Claims Trust Fund			115,547.74			0.00
8003	Caleb Chase Trust Fund			630,180.14			0.00
8004	Law Enforcement Trust Fund			8,922.10			0.00
8008	Federal Law Enforcement Trust			4,893.26			0.00
8010	Cemetery Flowers			0.00			0.00
8011	Cemetery McClark Flowers			0.00			0.00
8012	Cemetery Gchase			0.00			0.00
8020	Stabilization Fund			6,444,480.11			0.00
8021	Conservation Trust			6,324.30			0.00
8022	400th Anniversary Trust			1,590.28			0.00
8023	Whitehouse Field Trust			10,592.22			0.00
8024	Brooks Free Library Trust			963,272.00			0.00
8025	Cemetery Trust Fund			488,950.29			0.00
8027	CPC/Land Bank Trust Fund	113,164.59	113,164.59	7,311,204.04			0.00
8028	Kelly Scholarship Fund			30,853.50			0.00
8029	Harwich Housing Trust			957,293.08			0.00
8030	OPEB GASB #45			6,772,607.41			0.00
8031	Chatham Road Mitigation			95,134.26			0.00
8032	Affordable Housing Stabilization			2,321,857.59			0.00
8033	Wastewater Stabilization			1,821,969.84			0.00
8050	School Trust Funds			84,933.71			0.00
8052	Lois Eaton Cultural Trust			38,347.39			0.00
Total Expendable Trust Fund Balance				113,164.59	113,164.59	28,108,953.26	0.00
Agency Funds reported in the fund balance section of the combined balance sheet:						58,700.15	
Total of combined balance sheet trust and agency fund balance column:						28,167,653.41	

Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services
Bureau of Accounts ~ Automated Statement of Indebtedness

City/Town/District of : _____ Harwich _____

FY2025

Long Term Debt Inside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
Buildings A	11,575,000	-	1,215,000	10,360,000	483,075
Departmental Equipment B	720,000	-	40,000	680,000	32,800
School Buildings C	-	-	-	-	-
School - All Other D	-	-	-	-	-
Sewer E	22,940,502	15,379,872	16,524,781	21,795,593	323,235
Solid Waste F	-	-	-	-	-
Other Inside G	2,125,000	-	360,000	1,765,000	99,275
SUB - TOTAL Inside	37,360,502	15,379,872	18,139,781	34,600,593	938,385

Long Term Debt Outside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
Airport	-	-	-	-	-
Gas/Electric Utility	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital	-	-	-	-	-
School Buildings 1	-	-	-	-	-
Sewer 2	-	-	-	-	-
Solid Waste 3	-	-	-	-	-
Water 4	8,057,213	-	457,095	7,600,118	272,215
Other Outside 5	-	-	-	-	-
SUB - TOTAL Outside	8,057,213	-	457,095	7,600,118	272,215

TOTAL Long Term Debt	45,417,715	15,379,872	18,596,876	42,200,711	1,210,600
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Please complete all sections of this report and return it to the Public Finance Section no later than September 30, 2025.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that this information is complete and accurate as of this date.

Treasurer: _____

Date: _____

I certify that long and short term debt as identified in this Statement of Indebtedness is in agreement with the general ledger controls in my department and are also reflected on the balance sheet.

Accounting Officer: _____

Date: _____

Delivery By U.S. Mail

Phone/Fax

FedEx, UPS, Other Delivery

Public Finance Section
Division of Local Services
PO Box 9569
Boston MA 02114-9569

(617) 626-2399
(617) 626-2382
(617) 626-4110
Fax (617) 626-3916

Public Finance Section
Division of Local Services
100 Cambridge St.
Boston MA 02114

Short Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
RANs - Revenue Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
BANs - Bond Anticipation:					
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
School Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Sewer	-	-	-	-	-

Water	-	-	-	-	-
Other BANS	-	-	-	-	-
SANs - State Grant Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
FANS - Federal Gr. Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
Other Short Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL Short Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL All Debt	45,417,715	15,379,872	18,596,876	42,200,711	1,210,600

Authorized and Unissued Debt					
Purpose	Date of Vote	Article Number	Amount Authorized	- Issued - Retired - Rescinded	= Unissued 6/30/2025
Saquatucket Municipal Marina Improvements	5/2/16 & 5/17/16	16	7,000,000	6,257,600	742,400
Sewer Interconnection & Planning	5/1/17 & 5/16/17	11	6,765,000	4,980,000	1,785,000
Sewer (Phase 2 - Cold Brook) Extension	5/1/17 & 5/16/17	12	2,000,000	1,597,400	402,600
Pleasant Bay Watershed Section Study	7/2018 & 5/15/20	14	24,775,000	24,774,467	533
Fire Station 2 Construction	EXEM 7/2018 & 5/15/20	24	6,750,000	6,650,000	100,000
West Harwich Route 28 Sewer Main	5/16/2023, amend	19, Q1 & 51	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
West Harwich Route 28 Water Main	5/1/2023	20	17,500,000	3,835,000	13,665,000
East Harwich Wastewater Collection	5/16/2023, amend	21, Q2 & 51	55,000,000	42,021,965	12,978,035
Pleasant Lake Avenue Water Tank	5/6/2024	19	750,000	750,000	-
Cranberry Valley Golf Course Irrigation	5/5/2025	16	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
Fire Department Ambulances	EXEM 5/2025 & 5/20/20	19, Q4	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
Fire Department Pumper/ Fire Engine	5/2025 & 5/20/20	19, Q4	1,300,000	-	1,300,000
Great Sand Lake Wastewater Conservation	5/2025 & 5/20/20	20, Q5	35,000,000	-	35,000,000
SUB -TOTAL Additional Sheet(s)				90,866,432	71,073,568

BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS, STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS DETAIL

Long Term Debt						
Inside the Debt Limit	Report by Issuance	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
06/21/18	Land Acquisition	460,000	-	35,000	425,000	19,450
06/21/18	Bridge Reconstruction	230,000	-	20,000	210,000	9,775
06/21/18	Building Remodeling - H	80,000	-	10,000	70,000	3,800
06/21/18	Building Remodeling - H	1,540,000	-	110,000	1,430,000	64,350
06/21/18	Roads	85,000	-	10,000	75,000	4,000
06/21/18	Roads	35,000	-	5,000	30,000	1,700
06/21/18	Building Remodeling	1,565,000	-	200,000	1,365,000	74,350
06/21/18	Building Remodeling	780,000	-	100,000	680,000	37,100
06/21/18	Building Remodeling	520,000	-	40,000	480,000	22,050
06/21/18	Building Remodeling	260,000	-	20,000	240,000	11,025
06/21/18	Sewer	1,920,000	-	140,000	1,780,000	80,475
06/20/19	Building Construction - I	1,950,000	-	130,000	1,820,000	76,700
06/20/19	Building Construction - I	2,510,000	-	170,000	2,340,000	99,000
06/20/19	Building Remodeling - G	560,000	-	40,000	520,000	22,300
06/20/19	Off Street Parking Area -	170,000	-	25,000	145,000	7,900
06/20/19	Public Wharf Reconstruction	97,150	-	10,050	87,100	4,322
06/20/19	Public Wharf Reconstruction	47,850	-	4,950	42,900	2,129
06/20/19	Engineering Services - Si	15,000	-	5,000	10,000	750
08/20/19	Building Construction - I	1,810,000	-	395,000	1,415,000	72,400
06/09/22	Roads	110,000	-	55,000	55,000	5,500
06/09/22	Roads	45,000	-	15,000	30,000	2,250
06/09/22	Roads	90,000	-	30,000	60,000	4,500
06/09/22	Roads	55,000	-	20,000	35,000	2,750
06/09/22	Roads	45,000	-	15,000	30,000	2,250
06/09/22	Roads	150,000	-	50,000	100,000	7,500
06/09/22	Departmental Equipment	720,000	-	40,000	680,000	32,800
06/09/22	Roads	505,000	-	65,000	440,000	25,250

06/09/22 Sewerage System	1,980,000	-	110,000	1,870,000	90,200
06/09/22 Sewer	380,000	-	25,000	355,000	17,400
* 12/14/22 Sewer CWP-18-23	15,567,502	-	15,567,502	-	-
05/22/24 Sewer	1,417,000	-	72,000	1,345,000	61,750
05/22/24 Sewer	1,417,000	-	72,000	1,345,000	61,750
05/22/24 Sewer	149,000	-	9,000	140,000	6,754
05/22/24 Sewer	95,000	-	5,000	90,000	4,155
12/13/24 Sewer CWP-18-23 REFU	-	15,379,872	519,279	14,860,593	-

TOTAL	37,360,502	15,379,872	18,139,781	34,600,593	938,385
				Must equal	

Long Term Debt						
Outside the Debt Limit	Report by Issuance	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
03/15/10	Water Treatment Facility	450,000	-	75,000	375,000	17,438
10/01/11	Water Treatment Facility	1,690,000	-	130,000	1,560,000	54,178
10/30/12	Water Storage Tank	920,000	-	100,000	820,000	21,881
02/21/18	Well DWP-13-02	1,220,213	-	90,095	1,130,118	24,404
05/22/24	Water Mains	3,777,000	-	62,000	3,715,000	154,315
TOTAL		8,057,213	-	457,095	7,600,118	272,215
					Must equal	

Short Term Debt					
Report by Issuance	Outstanding July 1, 2024	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2025	Interest Paid in FY2025
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-
				Must equal	

FISCAL YEAR 2025 TAX COLLECTIONS

REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUE	
2023	53,360.65
2024	339,278.35
2025	56,129,279.92
TOTALS	56,521,918.92

CPA TAX REVENUE	
2024	11,383.74
2025	1,682,642.83
TOTALS	1,694,026.57

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	
2019	36.34
2020	15.19
2021	60.35
2022	96.47
2023	628.17
2024	6,328.85
2025	1,150,331.70
TOTALS	1,157,497.07

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE REVENUE	
2018	391.67
2019	456.04
2020	925.86
2021	1,485.73
2022	9167.57
2023	74,655.34
2024	470,842.82
2025	2,563,519.73
TOTALS	3,121,444.76

BOAT EXCISE REVENUE	
2023	4.64
2024	325.71
2025	25,843.60
TOTALS	26,173.95

TAX LIENS / BETTERMENTS REVENUE	
Tax Title	42,283.78
Water Liens	13,345.45
Road Betterments	14,464.99
Septic Betterments	695.00
TOTALS	70,789.22

Outstanding Receivables – 6/30/2025

	Detail per Treasurer/Collector	Balance per General Ledger
Personal Property Taxes		
Levy of 2025	35,897.23	34,670.26
Levy of 2024	10,448.12	10,448.12
Levy of 2023	10,098.18	10,098.18
Levy of 2022	8,088.49	8,088.49
Levy of Prior Years	25,396.94	25,408.94
Total	89,928.96	88,713.99
Real Estate Taxes		
Levy of 2025	1,548,926.99	1,550,117.22
Levy of 2024	396,010.78	396,010.78
Levy of 2023	64,354.81	65,826.73
Levy of 2022	51.79	746.12
Levy of Prior Years	14.97	1856.95
Total	2,009,359.34	2,014,558.80
Motor Vehicle Excise		
Levy of 2025	251,567.59	251,938.83
Levy of 2024	65,329.72	65,329.72
Levy of 2023	35,229.78	35,229.73
Levy of 2022	15,543.58	15,543.57
Levy for Prior Years	48,730.82	48,730.82
Total	416,401.44	416,772.67
Tax Liens/Tax Title		
Tax Liens/Tax Title	236,4290.18	236,4598.86
Tax Foreclosures/Tax Possessions		
Tax Foreclosures/Tax Possessions	249,569.52	249,569.52
Other Excise Taxes		
Boat Excise	550,502.18	550,502.18
User Charges Receivables		
Water	1,164,878.74	1,164,315.87
Sewer	42,818.95	42,616.36
Other: Ambulance	679,967.87	679,967.87

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

Department	Name	Base Pay	Other	Overtime	Grand Total
ACCOUNTING	BARRETTE,				
	KATHLEEN	15965.67	18956.71		34922.38
	GREEN, MEGAN	67533.15	9891.8	2874.26	80299.21
	NORGEOT, CRYSTAL	24367.98	12122.8		36490.78
ACCOUNTING Total	REISNER, CHERI	42616.54	3131.56	56.2	45804.3
		150483.34	44102.87	2930.46	197516.67
ADMINISTRATION	CLARKE, JENNIFER	62289.51	8504.01	6724.88	77518.4
	ELDRIDGE, MEGGAN	95335.62	29731.11		125066.73
	FREINER, DANIELLE	47908.1	6934.54		54842.64
	LYON, NATASHA	56024.76	4006.71	338.86	60370.33
	MCGIBBON,				
	ANGELIQUE	48980.23	2193.12		51173.35
	MOLDSTAD, JUDITH	20044.62			20044.62
	MOORE, JEANETTE	1898.04			1898.04
	POWELL, ELLEN	5259.19			5259.19
ADMINISTRATION Total	POWERS, JOSEPH	154348.31	28179.42		182527.73
		492088.38	79548.91	7063.74	578701.03
ASSESSORS					
	GRIBEN, MADISON	51850.36	6153.07	324.59	58328.02
	JONES, CARLENE	78291.48	13519.26		91810.74
	KAVANAUGH, JAY	500.04			500.04
	NIGHTINGALE,				
	BRUCE	500.04			500.04
ASSESSORS Total	STEIDEL, DANIEL	43180.67	2563.2	140.18	45884.05
	WAYSTACK,				
	RICHARD	500.04			500.04
		174822.63	22235.53	464.77	197522.93
BOARD OF SELECTMEN					
	DOUCETTE, ANITA	200			200
	HANDLER, JEFFREY	2400			2400

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

	HOWELL, DONALD	2400			2400
	KAVANAGH, JULIE	2200			2200
	KELLEHER, MARK	200			200
	MACASKILL, MICHAEL	2200			2200
	PIEKARSKI, PETER	2400			2400
BOARD OF SELECTMEN					
Total		12000			12000
BUILDING					
	ANDERSON, DAVID	37746.72	13482.05	1365.62	52594.39
	COLBURN, LUCAS	10884.72			10884.72
	FALLETTI, LAURA	47546.71	6226.13	90.63	53863.47
	HUTCHINGS, NATALIE	45920.12	7136.52	29.31	53085.95
	LOHR, RACHEL	59992.24	8394.04		68386.28
	MEE, JOHN	26434.95	13572.4		40007.35
	MUSCATIELLO, PAUL	54495.12	7663.86	159.03	62318.01
	STEVENS, RICHARD	7980			7980
	STONE, JOSHUA	14973.93			14973.93
	WINGARD, THOMAS	39105			39105
BUILDING Total		345079.51	56475	1644.59	403199.1
CEMETERY	KELLEY, ROBBIN	74480.71	8587.27		83067.98
CEMETERY Total		74480.71	8587.27		83067.98
CEMETERY/HWAY					
	HOPKINS, JARED	59623.93	13585.65	18302.7	91512.28
	SMITH, PETER	52436.28	8972.71	4566.16	65975.15
	STRATTON, JAMES	66725.89	7433.63	11883.42	86042.94
CEMETERY/HWAY Total		178786.1	29991.99	34752.28	243530.37
CHANNEL 18					
	GOODWIN, JAMIE	81271.93	15465.35		96737.28
	HAMILTON, MATTHEW	15310.09			15310.09

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

CHANNEL 18 Total		LADUE, CALEB	54898.83	6225.22	2260.32	63384.37
			151480.85	21690.57	2260.32	175431.74
COMMUNITY CENTER		CAREY, CAROLYN	95914.04	22729.52		118643.56
		CUSACK, FRANCESCA	9218.48			9218.48
		CUSACK, JOSHUA	4632.74			4632.74
		ESTABROOK,				
		SAMANTHA	65448.04	7641.96	4154.67	77244.67
		FERNANDES, KIM	20741.42			20741.42
		KRIPP, MARK	390.2			390.2
		MOTT, MOLLY	819.42			819.42
		NUNES, MARY ELLEN	7745.47			7745.47
		STEIDEL, ARTHUR	26661.12		135.1	26796.22
		WILDA, REAGAN	56632.51	3335.1	212.48	60180.09
COMMUNITY CENTER Total			288203.44	33706.58	4502.25	326412.27
CONSERVATION		GOODING, LILLIAN	54823.85	3981.1	67.4	58872.35
		MCDONALD, BRIAN	2879.28			2879.28
		SALMON, MEG	14162.4	590.1		14752.5
		SHAW, ELIZABETH	10258.6	0	190.52	10449.12
		USOWSKI, AMY	88424.23	18044.39		106468.62
CONSERVATION Total			170548.36	22615.59	257.92	193421.87
COUNCIL ON AGING		ANDERSEN, JENNY	41678.16	10254.46	175.3	52107.92
		DINATALE, WILLIAM	3883.5			3883.5
		FALLON, VIRGINIA	1047.1			1047.1
		GROOM, JULIE	74370.28	8622.89		82993.17
		HAYWARD, SARANYA	44543.87	2468.13	151.11	47163.11
		JUSELL, SUSAN	82770.26	17721.46		100491.72
		KELLEY, LINDA	2808.94			2808.94
		LEAHY, DAVID	8717.49			8717.49
		NOLES, LARRY	276.06			276.06

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

	PATTERSON, MARK	13409.32	445.23		13854.55
	PETERSON, PATRICIA	343.4			343.4
	SEELEY, KATERI	48509.25	6470.51		54979.76
	ST PIERRE, LINDA	41190.32	9613.41	65.48	50869.21
	SWIFT, LAUREN	52060.88	3484.48	214.63	55759.99
	WATSON, KENNETH	13134.17			13134.17
COUNCIL ON AGING Total		428743	59080.57	606.52	488430.09
CULTURAL AFFAIRS	MALONEY, MARY	15261.12			15261.12
	MEWHINNEY, KARA	73179.91	12925.71		86105.62
CULTURAL AFFAIRS Total		88441.03	12925.71		101366.74
DISPOSAL/LANDFILL	BURKE, WILLIAM	27762.39			27762.39
	EWING, BENJAMIN	18164.1	1317.9	3889.27	23371.27
	GERMAIN, ERIN	59095.16	10729.26	12015.32	81839.74
	GHILARDI, JAMES	5872.84	6497.42	933.6	13303.86
	GROSSE, CODY	64113.16	9096.33	18275.2	91484.69
	HOSKING, RICHARD	59669.89	8428.84	26768.04	94866.77
	JOY, ROBERT	36140.42		79.28	36219.7
	KIERNAN, MICHAEL	23333.85			23333.85
	MCNEELY, DANIEL	57038.19	10510.52	41578.27	109126.98
	PINA, F JEFFREY	59869.9	7683.89	9819.18	77372.97
	RAMIREZ, MICHAEL	50608.91	4857.93	29831.25	85298.09
	SUTHERLAND, GEORGE	3606.62			3606.62
	WALTHER, WILLIAM	59285.1	8268.75	21089.93	88643.78
	YARBRO, THOMAS	69812.84	10880.4	32177.43	112870.67
DISPOSAL/LANDFILL Total		594373.37	78271.24	196456.77	869101.38
CONSTABLES	BELTIS, GERALD	125			125
	CAKOUNES, LEO	125			125
	ROBINSON, DAVID	125			125

CONSTABLES		Total	375	375
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	KIEFER, MARK		73594	1523.34
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR				
Total			73594	1523.34
FIRE	AVERY, RYAN		71741.2	19067.55
	BENGSTON, ZACHERY BROWN,		59622.39	15860.52
	CHRISTIANNA CLARKE, JAMES DEBROSKY,		71446.99 64432.88	15642.73 20799.56
	MARJORIE DEPRIZIO, ANTHONY DIAMOND, ERIC DRUCKENBROD,		59081.73 66012.85 68355.29	18544.86 9407.74 35554.47
	TIMOTHY DUQUETTE, KEVIN EDWARDS, RYAN EL SEHRAWAY,		60256.43 65304.95 67263.98	29736.35 22204.69 31501.35
	MARISSA ELLIOTT, ERIC FERRO, BRANDON FINN, PAUL		55235.89 72439.78 71166.77 78247.14	2624.33 29454.51 22905.92 32124.08
	FORD, JOSHUA IMPARATO, STEPHEN LAPLANTE, ADAM LEBLANC, DAVID LEVASSEUR,		67243.72 68695.31 69027.16 153523.72	26012.91 20545.45 30136.39 25265.15
	MATTHEW MAYO, JOSEPH MCHUGH, ALEXANDER		74292.63 71230.07 64550.57	17855.72 35462.08 14871.43
				51888.1 87309.39 25231.74
				144036.45 194001.54 104653.74

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

MCISHERA, CONNOR	68637.09	18396.36	41287.31	128320.76
OTTINO, ANDREW	66378.61	15730.01	27406.54	109515.16
PARKER, DONALD	32196.78	74495.38	35815.99	142508.15
PIRES, SUSAN	44938.32	13170.68		58109
PIRRUCCIO, MARK	56987.2	29705.02	38073.88	124766.1
REGAN, CHRISTINA	67624.06	32742.18	23967.52	124333.76
REGO, JOSEPH	66074	36866.17	28381.53	131321.7
RIKER, ANDREW	61762.8	16190.57	38041.43	115994.8
SANDINO, JAMES	70942.63	16539.42	36076.2	123558.25
SANGIOVANNI, DANIEL	68588.81	25245.15	63265.58	157099.54
SARGENT, RYAN	21338.1	1185.45	338.69	22862.24
SCHNEEWEISS, WILLIAM	72082.18	21174.55	21400.5	114657.23
SMITH, LEIGHANNE	76328.74	39781.73	46571.84	162682.31
STEWART, TRACY	71749.89	17003.17	14767.48	103520.54
THORNTON, CRAIG	118755.3	30212.76	3254.69	152222.75
TROVATO, MICHAEL	68988.26	16430.43	13916.16	99334.85
TYLDESLEY, SCOTT	58440.39	44365.52	40894.54	143700.45
WARNER, BRYANT	67452.87	20728.2	27823.83	116004.9
WHITE, JUSTIN	83299.96	28426.47	85029.38	196755.81
WILLIAMS, ROBERT	60574.61	30955.95	18931.02	110461.58
WILLIS, BRAD	76656.65	35151.66	70827.94	182636.25
YOUNG, BRUCE	76378.29	30313.87	118763.94	225456.1
FIRE Total	2955346.99	1070388.49	1400128.88	5425864.36
GAS INSPECTOR	DECOTEAU, RICHARD	19442.38	196.56	19638.94
GAS INSPECTOR Total		19442.38	196.56	19638.94
GOLF	ANTONEVICH, RUSSELL	1839.85		1839.85
	BLUTE, JACK	1323.46		1323.46
	BOSWORTH, MARK	7214.1		7214.1

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

CANTO, JUSTUS	8111.12		8111.12
CARPENTER,			
NORMAND	9254.85		9254.85
CLAPTON, MARTIN	9931.77		9931.77
CONVERSE,			
GEOFFREY	9306.29		9306.29
CORREIA,			
ALEXANDRA	2144.4		2144.4
CROKE, MARK	1143.7		1143.7
DAMON, DEAN	56400.83	5284.37	6082.59
DECHANE, GREGORY	3663.63		3663.63
DONOVAN, ROBERT	62179.62	15583.08	5921.31
DOSSENA, JOSEPH	3702.66		3702.66
DUFFY-PETERSON,			
ELLEN	708.71		708.71
FAGAN, RICHARD	63939.04	16907.59	80846.63
FAGAN, SEAN	2620.14		2620.14
FALCK, WENDY	2270.27		2270.27
FERNANDEZ, SHAWN	91207.27	25471.11	116678.38
GALANIS, GREGORY	3578.85		3578.85
GALEOTA, RALPH	2802.94		2802.94
GORMAN, JAMES	6988		6988
GRANT, WILLIAM	11455.76		11455.76
GRAVALLESE, JOHN	1847.5		1847.5
GREER, JOHN	7139.32		7139.32
GREER, ROMAN	98486.18	14455.71	112941.89
HAMILTON, RICHARD	2295.02		2295.02
HARTSFIELD, PATTI	7362.04		7362.04
HESSICK, JOHN	1709.78		1709.78
HRISTOV, HRISTO	12764.93	963.09	13728.02
HUBBARD, DALE	6343.95		6343.95
HULL, JOHN	3308.93		3308.93
JAZWINSKI, EDWIN	48174.65	2924.71	4239.05
			55338.41

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

JOHNSON, GEORGE	7157.02		7157.02
JURINSKI, LIAM	887.94		887.94
KELLY, CAILIN	1224.93		1224.93
KRAUSE, MAXWELL	1866.61		1866.61
KUHL, JAMES	4282.13		4282.13
LANGLOIS, DEAN	49040.24	15262.39	70000.64
LAROCCO, AVA	4431.58		4431.58
LAVALLEY, BRODIE	3558.03		3558.03
MASIELLO, JASON	4062.63	154.44	4217.07
MCALLISTER, MICHAEL	7019.18		7019.18
MCVINN, MICHAEL	3720.21	12.06	3732.27
MCCARTHY, JOHN	4810.36		4810.36
MCCARTHY, MATTHEW	2152.29	74.79	2227.08
MCFADDEN, EDWARD	2235.91		2235.91
MELLO, PAUL	53702.27	7058.55	66348.35
MENDES, RALPH	530.31	5587.53	530.31
MURRAY, EDWARD	11583.02		11583.02
NASH, ERWIN	5964.41		5964.41
NOCK, PATRICIA	7916.75		7916.75
OCALLAGHAN, JONATHAN	5806.34		5806.34
OROURKE, STEVEN	2466.46		2466.46
PAVLAKIS, CHRISTIAN	1177.21	3599	4776.21
RYAN, TERRENCE	4012.86		4012.86
SERIAN, MICHAEL	56487.36	5911.64	62399
SHEA, WALTER	7588.72		7588.72
SIMS, FRANCIS	3431.45		3431.45
SPELMAN, JOHN	6395.12		6395.12
SPILLANE, MICHAEL	2184.09		2184.09
ST PIERRE, COLLEEN	7207.94		7207.94

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

	STEIGER, THEODORE	2268.84			2268.84
	STONE, AIDAN	5603.08			5603.08
	STRZEPEK, COLE	3975.91			3975.91
	THORNTON, CONOR	1758.91			1758.91
	THORNTON, LIAM	2693.86			2693.86
	THORNTON, SEAN	2993.74			2993.74
	TOFFOLON, ROBERT	93.18	3599		3692.18
	TOMASIAN, THOMAS	9182.3			9182.3
	VARZEAS, KIM	4267.74			4267.74
	WOODRUFF, MATTHEW	4001.02			4001.02
GOLF Total		860961.51	116057.15	28732.87	1005751.53
HARBOR	BOWLER, STEPHEN	3171.37			3171.37
	BURKE, MARY	5455.73			5455.73
	BURKE, SEAN	2470.08			2470.08
	CHENETTE, BRIAN	2319.33			2319.33
	CORNELL, TANNER	2854.53			2854.53
	FISH, ALLAN	1211.46			1211.46
	GIROUX, MARC	6104.01			6104.01
	HARKER, JOHN	23360.4			23360.4
	MATHEWS, RICHARD	14560.97			14560.97
	MORRIS, MICHELLE	53613.54	17636.1	1775.1	73024.74
	NEISER, WILLIAM	71104.5	9060.94		80165.44
	OCONNOR, SCOTT	287.97			287.97
	RENDON, JOHN	55446.83	35657.94		91104.77
	SOUZA, ANDREW	57210.81	11315.03		68525.84
	SPRINGER, BARRY	4829.67			4829.67
	THORNTON, EMMA	2207.52			2207.52
HARBOR Total		306208.72	73670.01	1775.1	381653.83
HEALTH	BALLINGER, MEREDITH	44876.7	6865.2		51741.9

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

DOWGIALLO,				
RONALD	500.04			500.04
DUPONT, KEVIN	500.04			500.04
GUARINO, TERRI	11880.9	309.6		12190.5
HOWELL, PAMELA	500.04			500.04
JOHNSON, STEPHANIE	53955.55	5071.6	1259.88	60287.03
PFLEGER, SHARON	500.04			500.04
SCHOENER, CARRIE	81769.58	7753.82		89523.4
SINGLETON,				
JENNIFER	58887.78	8813.14		67700.92
HEALTH Total	253370.67	28813.36	1259.88	283443.91
HEALTH				
ANTOINE, MATTHEW	208.35			208.35
HEALTH Total	208.35			208.35
HIGHWAY				
BAILEY, GREGORY	38164.07	16540.84	176.78	54881.69
BERUBE, KIM	58586.83	11220.66	16135.32	85942.81
BERUBE, RICHARD	57539.25	22760.05	21537.53	101836.83
BRYDA, MICHAEL	22225.12	18981.38	2828.16	44034.66
DALUZE, MATTHEW	56000.11	5258.84	9179.24	70438.19
DONOVAN, JOSHUA	56907.51	4351.5	5714.99	66974
EDSON, KYLE	69202.11	11497.19	18578	99277.3
ELLIS, RANDY	1339.72	4513.08		5852.8
GONZALES,				
ANTHONY	45331.66	5147.56	3246.32	53725.54
HERSEY, STEVEN	52435.81	11791.21	11302.14	75529.16
HOLMES, COLLIN	23242.9			23242.9
HOOPER, LINCOLN	110994.01	34758.57		145752.58
HUNT, VALERIE	33271.03	250		33521.03
JENKINS, TODD	29677.73	1683.54	956	32317.27
KILKENNY, ROBERT	64750.46	5250.71	7893.36	77894.53
LEWIS, DANIEL	32401.99	12078.29	7404.87	51885.15
LIBBY, SEAN	69944.98	10754.32	12286.35	92985.65

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

MARCELINE,						
MANUEL	45313.59	6097.1	1431.97	52842.66		
MERESTE, DANIEL	54090.99	7167.98	6585.8	67844.77		
MICHELSSEN, PETER	38764.8	2246.4	224.64	41235.84		
MURPHY, EUGENE	57537.89	12063.32	10436.31	80037.52		
POPPO, ROBERT	11041.2	3687.04	172.8	14901.04		
SMITH, CAITLYN	47902.33	4894.52	4272.86	57069.71		
TANG, NICHOLAS	3756		14.09	3770.09		
TUOMINEN, CHARLES	8301.75			8301.75		
WINSLOW,						
JONATHAN	47782.34	7121.86	2845.86	57750.06		
WRIGHTINGTON,						
DAVID	55454.22	9322.79	17201.24	81978.25		
YARBRO, COOPER	49231.82	3339.83	5795.02	58366.67		
HIGHWAY Total	1241192.22	232778.58	166219.65	1640190.45		
HIGHWAY/BUILDING						
FORBES, SHAWN	59643.7	8944.78	6421.24	75009.72		
LANGWAY, WESLEY	51726.7	9132.27	18628.88	79487.85		
VIERA, PAUL	59235.98	13973.68	6232.19	79441.85		
HIGHWAY/BUILDING Total	170606.38	32050.73	31282.31	233939.42		
HOUSING ADVOCATE						
POWELL, BRIANNA	68832.82	9499.91		78332.73		
HOUSING ADVOCATE Total	68832.82	9499.91		78332.73		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY						
EATON, SARAH	90445.44	10240.22		100685.66		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Total	90445.44	10240.22		100685.66		
LIBRARY						
APPLETON, OLIVIA	8244.95			8244.95		
BAKSA-MATHEWS, MARY	6473.85			6473.85		

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

BRENNAN, KYLE	16419.87			16419.87
BROWN, JOANNE	1000			1000
BURKE, CARLA	32363.89	1088.61		33452.5
CARPENTER, ANN	59499.33	15136.51	224.89	74860.73
CAUGHEY, ALAN	57757.62	3695.74		61453.36
CEBULA, LINDA	1000			1000
CROWELL, WILLIAM	1000			1000
DEPIN, KELLY	32325.11	1477.72	50.26	33853.09
ELLIOT-GRUNES,				
LAUREN	1194.88			1194.88
GEORGE, CHRISTINE	8382.61			8382.61
HEWITT, VIRGINIA	105552.52	26577.38		132129.9
INMAN, PHILLIP	931.94	1374.92		2306.86
KELLEY, LAURA	23379.1	2117.52		25496.62
LEACH, JACQUELINE	13675.57			13675.57
LYERLY, DANIEL	1129.2			1129.2
MCCARTY, JOAN	1000			1000
MURRAY, PATRICIA	1000			1000
NICHOLS, JUDITH	2566.3			2566.3
NORTH, PAMELA	7514.96			7514.96
PAINE, PAMELA	27493.14			27493.14
PARKER, JOHN	1846.61			1846.61
PETTY, SHANAZ	46401.05	3089.13	204.93	49695.11
PICKETT, JENNIFER	73181.13	15529.43		88710.56
SIMS, CAREY	58085.71	5774.29	1408.3	65268.3
THORNTON, JAMIE	63369.43	6603.6	167.11	70140.14
WAYSTACK,				
BERNADETTE	1000			1000
WHEELER, JEANNIE	1000			1000
WILLIAMS, GAVIN	57775.76	5959.24	174.2	63909.2
LIBRARY Total	712564.53	88424.09	2229.69	803218.31
NATURAL RESOURCES				
LOWER, KALI	2237.2			2237.2

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

	MARTINELLE,				
	ARIELLA	807.56			807.56
	PACIOUS, THOMAS	11889.15			11889.15
	RIDENOUR,				
	STEPHANIE	5061.62	361.54		5423.16
	YANNUZZI, DON	61687.29	13979.48		75666.77
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Total		81682.82	14341.02		96023.84
PARK/HIGHWAY	ALBEE, BRIAN	66625.93	13673.37	25269.47	105568.77
	SYLVESTER, KYLE	5941.51			5941.51
	THIBEAULT, MARC	7343.06			7343.06
		79910.5	13673.37	25269.47	118853.34
PLANNING	DELANEY, SHELAGH	3753.2	8826.96		12580.16
	FLYNN, CHRISTINE	103078.86	7852.39		110931.25
		106832.06	16679.35		123511.41
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	DAVIS, THOMAS	57438.9			57438.9
	MOYNIHAN, JAMES	935.42			935.42
Total		58374.32			58374.32
POLICE	ARNICK, RACHID	60098.17	5134.36	24313.53	89546.06
	BEASLEY, ELIJAH	27739.15	8	232	27979.15
	BENNETT, DEANDRE	61068.29	4468.24	55299.18	120835.71
	BOORACK, PAUL	101469.64	16260.07	51568.15	169297.86
	BRACKETT, ROBERT	107346.71	6014.34	64502.25	177863.3
	BRICKLEY, BRENDAN	93703.37	12966.89	95848.99	202519.25
	BUTTRICK, AUSTIN			28619.5	28619.5
	BUTTRICK, RICHARD			14982	14982
	CAMPBELL, RICHARD			61688.5	61688.5
	CLARKE, THOMAS	85598.75	14296.42	143510.88	243406.05

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

CONNERY, JAMES	77188.93	17257.23	51657.9	146104.06
CONSIDINE, KEVIN	126607.74	46120.35		172728.09
DONOVAN, DANIEL	78999.72	17740.47	69949.21	166689.4
DUTRA, DEREK	85108.45	20210.4	36375.95	141694.8
DYER, NORA	50327.06	9865.68	15678.53	75871.27
FUGATE, JAKE	16442.77	370.53	2208.43	19021.73
GOSHGARIAN, ARAM	116082.68	19070.71	21139.76	156293.15
GRIFFITHS, THOMAS	80389.23	13759.04	47663.07	141811.34
Guillemette, David		34392.55		34392.55
HADFIELD, ROBERT			49546.92	49546.92
HARRINGTON,				
JENNIFER	67973.57	16256.65	5215.18	89445.4
HARRIS, MARC	92099.74	16834.29	25765.71	134699.74
HINESLEY, JAMES	13841.66	5404.09	3700.19	22945.94
HOLMES, MARK	76954.92	17608.15	63531.86	158094.93
HORGAN, ROBERT			39381	39381
HUTTON, ADAM	114663.03	34458.55	32581.86	181703.44
JUDGE, JULIE	49383.88	12288.05		61671.93
KANNALLY, KEITH	78105.91	12973.6	59447.7	150527.21
LARIVEE, JOHN	80689.42	12580.16	64197.98	157467.56
LOPES, KYLEIGH	63274.61	11777.61	29404.51	104456.73
MCCAFFREY,				
CHARLES	61620.58	8377.61	15756.73	85754.92
McFarland, Scott	60037.54	5270.99	47319.18	112627.71
McGrath, Jessica	78836.91	8160.55	32086.02	119083.48
McNALLY, IRIS	53942.77	21788.78	40503.17	116234.72
MONTEIRO,				
THEODORE	56097.5	14803.05	24530.15	95430.7
MONTGOMERY,				
Greta	16419.72	808.68		17228.4
Nicholson, Diane	46122.36	30089.29	19610.13	95821.78
NOLAN, NEIL	87617.61	1000		88617.61

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

PELLEGRINO,	70753.66	17164.99	54221.84	142140.49
RICHARD	112683.97	1000		113683.97
PETELL, PETER	43780.08	8557.55	776.85	53114.48
RADZIK, THOMAS	70748.34	6809.73	40202.13	117760.2
RIDENOUR, DREW	46815.91	24588.95	6895.4	78300.26
ROSS, JADE	86982.57	4348.24		91330.81
RUGGIERO, RONALD			81282.96	81282.96
STONE, JOSEPH			60037.42	60037.42
SULLIVAN, JOHN	77130.5	4502.61	19988.3	101621.41
THOMAS, COLIN	83966.48	11682.74	1150.84	96800.06
ULRICH, T	38746.06	17115.38	968.88	56830.32
VARLEY, KATIE	95561.52	13331.31	70574.41	179467.24
VERMETTE, TYLER	106481.6	20358.79	15809.56	142649.95
WALINSKI, AMY				
POLICE Total	3099503.08	597875.67	1689724.71	5387103.46

REC & YOUTH				
AYER, TYLER	4599.86			4599.86
BANTA, ELAINE	62732.98	20099.34	914.56	83746.88
BEEBE, ERIC	87343.69	18347.13		105690.82
BENNETTE, JORDAN	5690.55			5690.55
BOURQUE, LOUISE	4847.34		146.03	4993.37
BOZELLI, VINICIUS	14528.8			14528.8
CHAPMAN, DILLON	3199.43			3199.43
CIAMPA, ANGELINA	4582.98		109.44	4692.42
CIAMPA, BRENDAN	5349.01		172.58	5521.59
CIAMPA, FRANCESCA	4300.87			4300.87
CIAMPA, MATTHEW	4811.79		355.01	5166.8
CLACKEN, ANTHONY	1548.87			1548.87
COOMBER, ISABELLA	2034.9			2034.9
COURNOYER,				
ELIZABETH	5232.31			5232.31
CUDMORE, PHYLLIS	28944.34	250		29194.34

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

DEVENS,			
ALEXANDRA	3890.7		3890.7
DOMOLKY, BRYN	4960.43		5066.63
DONNELLY, MEGAN	3512.64	106.2	3605.57
DONNELLY, RYAN	2401.96	92.93	2401.96
ERNST, MEREDITH	2970.24		2970.24
FITZGERALD, JULIA	3179.34		3179.34
FOLEY, ERIN	5260.75		5260.75
GALVIN, PATRICK	4956.22		4956.22
GEORGE, KAILA	4218.18		4218.18
GONNELLA,			
FRANCESCA	6692.23		6692.23
GRAY, EMILY	5890.07		5890.07
HARRISON, SHEA	5632.21		5632.21
HARRISON, SKYLAR	5360.48		5360.48
HARRISON, WILLIAM	7059.53	394.72	7454.25
HAYES, JEMMA	3581.76		3581.76
HELLYER, TRAVIS	3490.12		3490.12
HURLEY, MICHAEL	4888.1		4888.1
JOHNSON, MEILI	1305.52		1305.52
JUNG, MARLENE	4772.4		4772.4
KARLE, PAUL	5586.18	136.8	5722.98
KOTEL, MADISON	2468.1		2468.1
KRAUS, JOHN	4022.48		4022.48
KRAUS, SEAN	4666.92		4666.92
LARIVEE, NATALIE	4882.08		4882.08
LEGG, ELIZABETH	4299.76		4299.76
LOPEZ, SHAUN	228.45		228.45
LOSEY, JOHN	72439.2	4489.84	86262.04
MANUEL, ALAINA	3073.92	9333	3073.92
MAROTTA, KAREN	21293.31		21293.31
MAYFIELD, THOMAS	2920.29	112.68	3032.97
MCINNIS, CAROLINE	2756.05		2756.05

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

MCINNIS, TREVOR	4229.16	4229.16
MEDOFF, DANIELA	644.4	644.4
MEEHAN, NICHOLAS	170.43	170.43
MENDOZA, HENRY	623.52	623.52
MERCURIO,		
ISABELLA	3819.83	3819.83
MUNGOVAN, DANIEL	3311.86	3311.86
MUNGOVAN,		
MARTINE	1942.87	1942.87
MURPHY, KATHLEEN	4261.43	4261.43
O'CONNOR, BRENDAN	4545.9	4545.9
O'CONNOR, CAROLINE	8338.97	8338.97
O'CONNOR, PATRICK	2229.5	2229.5
O'KEEFE, JOHN	4046.41	4046.41
OSBORNE, TYLER	3354.15	3354.15
OZANIAN,		
MARGARET	3028.86	3028.86
PANKO, DEAN	9310.85	9310.85
PIRES, LAWRENCE	1900.5	1900.5
POLLENDER, DARCY	2764.45	2764.45
POMPL AIDEN	18013.44	18013.44
POMPI, GRACIE	20196.47	20196.47
RIVERA, CHRISTAN	3702.54	3702.54
ROBINSON, ELLA	445.99	445.99
ROSE, ADAM	555.75	555.75
ROWE, MEREDITH	10433.91	11203.83
ROWE, NATHANIEL	9646.47	11263.14
SAWYER, WILLIAM	6000.04	6000.04
SHEA, QUINN	3547.21	3547.21
SMITH, OWEN	5186.5	59.58
SMITH, SIOBHAN	4727.86	4727.86
STAPLES, ROSALINDA	2434.22	2434.22
STAPLES, SHANNON	10405.97	10405.97

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

HAYDEN, TERRY	663.4	663.4
JOSEPH, LESLIE	597.88	597.88
JOYCE, CHRISTINA	303.04	303.04
KAPLAN, ANN	864.06	864.06
KNOWLES, SHIRLEY	1550.14	1550.14
LAIDLAW, CHRISTINE	327.6	327.6
LONDON, ANTIGONE	1064.71	1064.71
MARTIN, JANE	716.64	716.64
MITCHELL, EMILY	110910.22	110910.22
MULLER, KATHLEEN	286.66	286.66
NOLAN, JENNA	6944	256
O'BRIEN, KATHLEEN	384.93	384.93
ODIAGA, CHRISTINE	360.36	360.36
OTOOLE, SHEILA	1179.38	1179.38
PINA, MARY ANN	1385.6	1385.6
RANSDEN, MICHELLE	724.82	724.82
RICHARDSON,		
THOMAS	458.64	458.64
ROBINSON, SANDRA	847.68	847.68
SCHLANSKY,		
MARILYN	835.4	835.4
SCHLANSKY, PAUL	434.08	434.08
SCHRECK, KATHLEEN	466.84	466.84
SEMENTA, DEBORAH	601.87	601.87
STARK, VIRGINIA	135.14	135.14
SULLIVAN, JUDITH	376.75	376.75
TAVANO, DONNA	253.89	253.89
TEAHAN, KATHLEEN	405.42	405.42
TRIBASTONE,		
LUANNE	3838.67	3838.67
TRIBASTONE, STEVEN	3830.48	3830.48
WEINSTEIN, SUSAN	0	0
WILDER, CHERYL	401.32	401.32

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT

WILLIAMS, PAMELA		1212.14	1212.14	
TOWN CLERK Total		164397.52	1464.63	165862.15
TREASURER/COLLECTOR				
BEUSEE, CAROL			1500	1500
BIRMINGHAM, KAREN	2795.89			2795.89
CAMERON, MELISSA	53005.25		6553.85	60386.13
HANCOCK, GAIL			1500	1500
HEMEON, BRUCE			1500	1500
KRIPP, LILLY	2176.8			2176.8
LEGENDRE, KRYSTLE	75008.23		8771.95	88065.4
LEGENDRE, PETER	2240.31			2240.31
MCNEIL, ELLYN			1500	1500
MILES, BEVERLY			1500	1500
MURPHY, JUDITH	3521.46			3521.46
PARNEY, MARLA			1500	1500
READY, CATHRYN	17842.47		622.85	18465.32
RINKACS, MADELINE	1346.12			1346.12
SALADIN, M K			1500	1500
SCARNICI, PATRICIA			1500	1500
SHAFFER, DAVID	48023.79		5199.57	54544.21
SMITH, HOLLY			1500	1500
TREASURER/COLLECTOR Total		205960.32	34648.22	247041.64
WATER				
ALLEN, MATTHEW	54067.95		7435.39	81139.32
ALVES, TRACEY	63310.36		9703.95	74931.91
DONAHUE, NOREEN	999.96			999.96
DUTCHER, JEREMY	45009.74		10888.25	71297.48
ELDRIDGE, JASON	64094.76		23143.93	132959.05
GOUGH, JOHN	999.96			999.96
HICKS, STEVEN	54771.76		41856.9	120141.21
HINKLEY, PAUL	63054.71		9699.94	75913.26

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SALARY REPORT					
LEAHY, DANIEL	54367.49	5475.33	22977.67	82820.49	
LEWIS, MICHAEL	51580.74	12858.91	25645.98	90085.63	
LONG, JONATHAN	79026.6	5967.4	15741.38	100735.38	
MAJKA, JOSHUA	60645.99	8273.49	25228.93	94148.41	
MARSH, WELLESLEY	67586.88	16313.4	2727.3	86627.58	
MILAN, DANA	65088.7	15267.72	40170.17	120526.59	
NICHOLSON, DAVID	62424.71	17931.65	30680.88	111037.24	
PICARD, TIMOTHY	62759.34	12390.25	8469.03	83618.62	
SIEGER, SANDRA	71007.33	24839.93	966.93	96814.19	
THOMPSON, ALLIN	999.96			999.96	
TREPANIER, JASON	105277.21	8143.9		113421.11	
UNDERWOOD, JUDITH	999.96			999.96	
YOUNG, ROBERT	999.96			999.96	
WATER Total	1029074.07	230190.34	281952.86	1541217.27	
YOUTH COUNSELOR					
SYMINGTON, ASHLEY	77013.71	7368.89		84382.6	
YOUTH COUNSELOR Total	77013.71	7368.89		84382.6	
Grand Total	15446144.46	3090837.44	3902347.87	22439329.77	

CITIZENS ACTIVITY VACANCY FORM

Volunteer Now – Serve Your Community

Town government needs citizens who are willing to give time in the service of their community. The Citizens Activity Record program was adopted by the Select Board as a means of compiling names of interested citizens to serve, on a voluntary basis, on Boards and Committees.

Activity records are being updated to include categories consistent with the changing needs of the Town. Indicate your order of preference and return this form to:

CITIZENS ACTIVITY VACANCY FORM

SELECT BOARD

732 Main Street, Harwich, MA 02645

Name: _____

Street/P.O. Box: _____

Town/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

(LIST IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE)

PLANNING AND PRESERVATION

- ☐ ***Board of Appeals**
- ☐ Brooks Academy Museum Commission
- ☐ By-law/Charter Review Committee
- ☐ Community Preservation Committee
- ☐ ***Conservation Commission**
- ☐ Cultural Council Committee
- ☐ Harwich Energy &
Climate Action Committee
- ☐ Historic District and Historical Commission
- ☐ ***Planning Board**
- ☐ Real Estate and Open Space Committee
- ☐ Traffic Safety Committee

RECREATION

- ☐ Bikeways Committee
- ☐ Golf Committee
- ☐ Recreation & Youth Commission
- ☐ Waterways Committee

OTHER

- ☐ Affordable Housing Trust
- ☐ ***Board of Assessors**
- ☐ ***Board of Health**
- ☐ Capital Outlay Committee
- ☐ Cemetery Commission
- ☐ Community Center Facilities Committee
- ☐ Constable
- ☐ Council on Aging
- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Harwich Accessibility Rights Committee
- ☐ Harwich Housing Committee
- ☐ Shellfish Constable (Voluntary)
- ☐ Treasure Chest Committee
- ☐ Voter Information Committee
- ☐ Youth Services Committee

*** Please include a resume with form**

TOWN OF HARWICH - TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TOWN OFFICES

Town of Harwich - Main Number	430-7514
Accounting	430-7502
Animal Control Officer	430-7541
Assessing	430-7503
Building	430-7506
Cemetery Commission	430-7549
Channel 18	430-7569
Community Center	430-7568
Conservation	430-7538
204 Sisson Road	774-212-3482
Council on Aging	430-7550
Department of Public Works	430-7555
Harbormaster	430-7532
Harbor Workshop	430-7529
Health Department	430-7509
Housing Advocate	774-994-3968
Department of Public Works	430-7555
Inspectors (Gas, Wiring, Plumbing, Building)	430-7507
Planning	430-7511
Recreation & Youth	430-7553
Select Board's Office	430-7513
TTY (For the Hearing Impaired)	430-7537
Town Administrator	430-7513
Town Clerk	430-7516
Town Engineer	430-7508
Town Nurse	430-7505
Treasurer/Tax Collector	430-7501
Veterans' Agent	430-7510
Water/Wastewater Department	432-0304
Youth Counselor	430-7836

LIBRARIES

Brooks Free Library	430-7562
Chase Library	432-2610
Harwich Port Library	432-3320

CRANBERRY VALLEY GOLF COURSE 430-5234

MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 945-5130

***** ALL EMERGENCY CALLS 911 *****

POLICE DEPARTMENT 432-7541

FIRE DEPARTMENT 432-7546
Other Calls 430-7548

